

**WAIPU COVE RESERVE BOARD**  
Public correspondence inwards/outwards 2019

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**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**From:** Angus McCulloch

**To:** WCRB

**Subject:** Dog Owners at Waipu Cove

Please see below information I have sent to Dog Control.

I note in your minutes a statement

“The Board have asked DoC as the landowner to direct us to enforce a dogs on a leash policy”

DOC is not the landowner, the Crown is and you as the Board are the administrators. Your Bylaws were approved by parliament which indicates a reasonable level of authority.

“Dogs on leashes only” added to the existing dog signs would be a clear unequivocal statement of what should be the existing situation.

In the interests of a better visitor experience

Regards

Angus

From: Angus McCulloch [mailto:mcculloch@xtra.co.nz]

Sent: Monday, 7 January 2019 6:47 AM

To: 'mailroom@wdc.govt.nz' <mailroom@wdc.govt.nz>

Subject: Dog owner Mike Fraser Waipu Cove.

At around 8.30am on 06/01/2018 I observed a barking dog run down onto the beach at Waipu Cove and chase any birds off the beach. He ran 300 to 400 metres up the beach to complete the task. Two more dogs appeared followed by their owner, Mike Fraser. The dogs ranged freely, at times called in. I said to him that dogs are meant to be under his control at all times and that they are not to chase birds or cause a nuisance. His response was in abusive terms. He then used a plastic bag to collect one of his dogs droppings and removed it from the beach. He then proceeded up the beach, one of his dogs defaecated on the water's edge before following on.

Immediately prior to the dogs arrival there had been a pair of oyster catchers, a couple of NZ dotterels and about 20 seagulls in the area in front of the boat ramp and more birds further up the beach. After the arrival of the dog there were no birds.

As a frequent beach user I observe responsible dog owners walking their dogs along the beach interfering with neither anyone nor bird life.

Please can you take action to stop this nuisance.

Angus McCulloch

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**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

**From:** WCRB

**To:** Angus McCulloch

**Subject:** Re. Dog Owners at Waipu Cove

Acknowledgement of email

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**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**From:** Angus McCulloch

**To:** WCRB

**Subject:** Information re. colour coded canine scheme

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/381569/conservationists-colour-code-canines-in-otago?fbclid=IwAR2LDklnNfQOiytqfQrkZxPTi0tFzNRf77gv6RruRrN9lkYi2VlbUK1sx2c>

Maybe a useful idea to help build respect for our bird life.

Regards

Angus

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**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**From:** WCRB  
**To:** Angus McCulloch  
**Subject:** Re. Colour coded canine scheme  
Acknowledgement of email

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**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**From:** Lloyd Rooney  
**To:** WCRB  
**Subject:** New signage at beach  
To all members of the board.

On Sunday the 10th of February John Henderson telephoned me to say that he had seen footage of me removing some signs referring to dogs on the beach. These signs were placed at the entrance to the public beach. I'm sure the reserve board is aware of the ongoing issues of harassment by Angus McCulloch towards dog walkers on the beach. I mistakenly saw this latest development as further escalation of conflict and tension between the local dog walking residents and Angus and removed the signs. There was no indication that these signs were endorsed by Waipu reserve board for example no logos or had been placed by the reserve board themselves and as such I believed I had the right to remove them.

However obviously after the phone conversation with John that isn't the case. To be honest I found that conversation extremely threatening with John constantly repeating over and over again in a rather patronizing way that I had to review my position or he will press charges. When I stated my position as above he just kept reiterating the same lines over and over again. What you might not be aware of is that I was a criminal lawyer in London and there is nothing in my behaviour today that could have successful charges placed against me. The burden of proof for example John is Beyond all reasonable doubt and of course liability isn't strict with this sort of event. All that would be achieved is a community further divided by the actions of one person and now backed up by a board too frightened to stand up for all of the cove residents against a former board member. The only person considering their position therefore John should be you.

Moving forward your signs are undamaged and safe with me, if you want to remake them or take them back to put up yourselves passing on the cost to me then they can be collected from the cove ( reasonable costs agreed by me first of course ). Further I do feel being in the tourism hospitality business I look for ways to encourage visitors to Waipu & these signs carry a sense of animosity & do very little to make people feel welcome.

It is disappointing that the board has aligned itself with someone who bullies anyone who has different opinions to him and displayed homophobia behaviour towards Michael and I. We have contributed \$1000s of dollars towards the sand dune restoration in support of the board with never expecting anything in return.

Yours sincerely  
Lloyd Rooney

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**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**From:** WCRB  
**To:** Lloyd Rooney  
**Subject:** Re. New signage at beach  
Acknowledgement of email

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**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
**From:** Michael Cunningham  
**To:** WCRB (response sent via camp managers)  
**Subject:** Waipu Cove Fish Fry

Hey Anton, sorry for not coming in to see you personally about The Cove Fish Fry this year, had every intention of coming to see you over the weekend but I got sidetracked, sorry, hey just letting you know about this year's Fish Fry, March 10.

As you probably know it is Annual, non profit and non commercial, (also there will be no Band, that was a one off and probably not that well thought out on my part).

Hope this is all OK with you and the Reserve Board.

The Fish Fry is a great community event and is a positive gathering of Surfers, Shapers and the general public, I will ensure that everyone is respectful of the Reserve and The Beach, I will make sure that it is left exactly how it is found.

Thanks Again, Mike Cunningham

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**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**From: Tim Manning (WCSLSC)**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Invitation to surf club event**

Kia Ora

I am the Chairman of the Waipu Cove Surf Lifesaving Club.

Could you please pass on an invitation to the reserve board to attend the surf club for a casual after patrol drink on Saturday.

I am aware of the comments that have caused offence to the Reserve Board in the recent publication, and would like to apologise for the offence that has occurred.

I would like to comment that our organisations are interconnected and we have and want to continue to have a strong, enjoyable and respectful relationship.

You are all always welcome at our club and we try to have a casual (low key) happy hour drink from 4:30pm on Saturday evenings (patrol finishes at 4pm from this weekend onwards until Easter).

If you can't make this weekend please feel free to pop in anytime. I would love to personally catch up and reinforce the respect and appreciation that the club holds for the Reserve Board.

Kind Regards

Tim

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**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Tim Manning (WCSLSC)**

**Subject: Re. Invitation to surf club event**

Afternoon Tim.

We really appreciate your reaching out to us.

I can't make drinks this Saturday.

Perhaps another weekend.

Regarding Ian Godfrey's book, we are just wanting a retraction from him so that the local community and SLNZ have the actual story.

Our Board and WCSLC are tight.

Best Wishes.

*John Henderson*

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**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Ian Godfrey**

**Subject: Content of published book**

Afternoon Ian.

No doubt you will not be happy with our letter.

Please try to read it with an open mind because we have better things to do than unfairly hassle a volunteer like you who has dedicated so much time and energy towards making WCSLC and our Beach Reserve better places for everyone.

Somehow, the facts we want you to know about are not known... and not only by you because we occasionally hear similar mis-statements coming from others.

Perhaps you can help us to set the record straight down at the Cove?

We think this would be in the best interests of the community.

WCRB are local volunteers who certainly acknowledge that we don't always get things right and we welcome constructive feedback to help us do better.

By the way Ian, for the beach weed clean up projects, we paid farmer machine costs and then they turned round and donated same amounts to WCSLC. If necessary in future, WCRB is ready to fund and manage more beach clean up work.

Looking forward to constructively working through this with you.

Cheers.

**John Henderson**

**Chair WCRB**

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**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: Ian Godfrey**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Re. Content of published book**

Dear John

I refer to your letter of 18 February 2019 regarding your concerns about the WCSLSC 90<sup>th</sup> celebration book. I am surprised by the nature of your complaint and believe it is an overreaction. That said, I have reviewed and taken on board your comments which I will address below.

Firstly, I would note that I cannot direct the WCSLSC to do anything. I authored the history, but the Club owns the book. The draft book was reviewed by a number of former campers/club members and senior club members with the Club's management committee approving it for publishing.

I also note on page 4 that "our history will be further reviewed, added to and enriched" and advise that some matters you have raised along with other corrections are being revised in the draft manuscript along with other corrections that will cover the next ten years for our 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

I do apologise for not fully recognising the interactions between the Club and the Board and staff as noted re the weed removal, Anton did a marvelous job, which is a consequence of the last two years of the Club's history being rushed to finalise it for the 90<sup>th</sup> Celebration and I was in the middle of a health issue. I do however note that on pages 117, 125, 137, 139, 146 & 149 our positive relationship, joint ventures and working collaboratively is acknowledged.

In response to other matters raised:

**Fact 1**

As noted above this is being addressed in draft manuscript for the 100 years celebration.

**Fact 2**

I disagree with your comments regarding "permanent sites". Littered through WCRB meeting minutes and camp manager reports from the early to late nineties are references to "Long Term Rental, Permanent Basis, Permanent Residents, Long Term Campers, Permanent Vans, Full Year Campers, Long Term Site holders, Permanent Sites and ratio's 60/40, 65/35 splits (permanent sites/ casual sites)" which reference to was discontinued following a DOC site visit Nov/ Dec 2000. In more recent times the Camp Rules of the time have evolved into the ASH agreement where I understand it was found that the Board was not authorized to make such decisions. I fully understand that the Commissioner now approves ASH agreements however in earlier times (much like what I understand occurs now) with casual campers over the Christmas break the permanent campers had certain rights of renewal, unless they chose to relinquish their site, were found to have seriously transgressed the camp rules or failed to pay fees. To categorically say "*there have never been permanent sites at Camp Waipu Cove*" is disingenuous given the history on the Permanent/ Ash issue.

**Fact 3**

Whilst I am fully aware of the Board's quantifying of fee increases in recent years, it was made clear by former campers/club members and permanent site holders that it became fiscally difficult for them (many on pensions/ fixed incomes) to remain as campers at a beach, despite having devoted much time and effort into its development.

Those campers/club members describe the fee increases as "enormous" (their quote) and it was noted that in the 7 year period from 2007/08 to 2014/15 annual fees increased from \$2096 pa to \$4000 pa an increase of 90.8%. Casual fees increased from \$28/ per couple to \$46/ couple and increase of 64.3%. This was against a CPI index 13.10% across this period.

Also noted to me for the 2009 year was an increase of reportedly 23% which was in acted with only 7 days' notice. Remembering this was in the middle of the Global Financial Crisis, many were on fixed incomes and trying to budget for this increase was stressful. Also, of note at this time (13 March 2009) in a DOC press release was that they had frozen their camp ground and hut fees; *noting; "In challenging times it is common sense to ensure that people can continue to enjoy the outdoors without worrying about increased charges"*.

Therefore, I do believe it is not unfair to use the camper's word of "enormous" when describing the increases.

### **Draconian and restrictive rules**

Also noted by many permanent/ ASH campers spoken to (who used this term) was the continual erosion of freedom and use of the camp which I did not want to elaborate on, however I refer to your camp managers April 2008 newsletter where direct reference to "*not wishing to be draconian*" is noted around some issues of the time that were subsequently disproven.

Many noted in their description of draconian;

- 365 days use reduced to max 90 days (additional fees after 90 days) with a minimum of 30 days
- Full year use, with power being turned off over winter period, if staying over winter period power turned off on leaving - to charging for power on top of annual site fees
- Washing & drying cloths were free now charged for
- Visitors to vacate the camp by 9:00pm
- Walking between sites with alcohol being prohibited
- Restricting the use of embankment after dark
- Overzealous security guards

While you may not agree with my response there have been many who have not been satisfied with the actions of previous Boards and claim its actions have had an effect on the Club and many older members – hence their story has been briefly told.

Also, of note is apart from this matter all feedback on the book has been positive and very supportive.

I freely acknowledge the efforts of the Board in ensuring that the camp is the show piece of DOC camping grounds and is being very well managed by the Board and your current manager Anton.

In no way is there any intent to offend.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention and providing me with the opportunity to address your concerns.

Yours sincerely  
Ian Godfrey

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**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Ian Godfrey**

**Subject: Re. content of published book**

Evening Ian.

Thanks for your reply which we discussed at our WCRB meeting last night.

Board consensus is that while we still object to certain assertions in your book, we do acknowledge the conciliatory tone of your letter and we thank you for that.

We don't see the point in more back and forth and the matter is closed as far as we are concerned.

For completeness, we are placing the following statement on our website.....

*The Board has written to the author of a recent book about the history of WCSLC to express objections to some assertions made as being inaccurate.*

We do affirm the current positive relationships between our two volunteer organisations and we are committed to working together for the betterment of all stakeholders in the Beach Reserve.

Cheers.

**John**

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**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Whangarei District Council**

**Subject: Dog control issues**

Afternoon Reiner.

Please see below.

A very recent example of non-performance from your contractor as reported by one of our Board Members.

Not copying all of the WDC players this time because we don't want to score points. We just want rapid and effective dog control and there is a credibility issue at our end.

Once again, please consider more contractor patrol time at Waipu Cove especially on good weather weekends. We are willing to help pay for it.

It would re-assure us if your contractors would notify Camp reception when they are down here patrolling.

You kindly offered to meet with us. Our next Waipu Cove Reserve Board meeting is Monday 29 April at 7 pm. Realise this is not a very sociable time for you to come down.

Perhaps better to meet with our Camp Managers during normal office hours?

Regarding the report below a bit more info. Roger says there was mention from your contractor for us to take photos of the dogs, their owners, and vehicle registrations.

We believe this is not reasonable and would put us into confrontational situations.

Our service expectation from WDC is for us to report problems to your contractor with an immediate response on site say within 2 hours.

What response time does your contract call for? Is it 24/7?

Our Board & Managers are ready to support your efforts. Please advise.

**John**

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Roger King"

**Subject:** Dog Control

**Date:** 12 March 2019 at 15:50:00 NZDT

**To:** "John Henderson"

Hi John

Regarding the dog control issue on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> at Waipu Cove, I called the 0800 932 463 at 9.46 am to request a dog control officer. I advised that there were 3 dogs running around the beach and the reserve, without any control at all and one was seen defecating on the beach by our Camp Manager. I requested a dog control officer as I thought it would be a timely opportunity to apprehend and advise dog owners who we know are repeat offenders. I was advised that someone would call me. At 10.15 a.m. Officer Kim Lyndsay called back and left a message that it was not her job and suggested I call back after 9.00 a.m. Monday. I again called 0800 932 462 at 10.21 a.m. and spoke to 'Louise', who advised me I probably needed to give more detail, e.g. dog descriptions, registration numbers etc.

Kind regards

**Roger**

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**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: Whangarei District Council**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Re. Dog control issues**

Hi John

In relation to last Sunday, let me follow up with Armourguard and our afterhours contact centre on what precisely occurred here and get back to you. However, having read the below, I fear that requesting a "Dog Control Officer" might have confused the issue

and thus potentially resulted in the response that Roger claims to have received. Our contract with Armourguard provides for a 24/7 response by warranted enforcement officers, but after hours and on weekends these are 'generalist' enforcement officers, who are legally able to deal with all enforcement matters, including dogs, but are not necessarily dedicated 'dog control officers'. However, as I've stated, I will enquire and get back to you.

In relation to previous requests for photos or other evidence, this is often suggested by Armourguard staff to support claims of wrongdoing and provide (additional) evidence, as by the time an enforcement officer arrives (even where that arrival is within a short period of time), often the offending behaviour has stopped. Clearly, where your staff, associated parties or the general public are unable or unwilling to assist, that is fine and we will have to do without. However, please note that without such supporting evidence enforcement opportunities are often limited.

We are happy to meet with you and your camp managers, but as suggested a meeting during normal office hours would suit us better. Please let me have a few date/time suggestions to assist in our scheduling.

I fear your 'service response' expectations, outside the summer 'beach ban' timeframes of between 20 December and 31 January annually, are totally unrealistic, as the contractual obligations of Armourguard (based upon cost limitations) for dog Bylaw breaches are a Priority 3 response and thus a response within one day and not necessarily within hours of such a Bylaw complaint having been received.

For example, a Priority 1 response would generally be a dog attack, which for your area generally stipulates a response time of 1 hour and 30 minutes. From this you can see that due to budgetary and contractual restraints an immediate response to dogs running loose on a beach or fouling a beach is just not possible under the current system.

I can appreciate that these limitations will not be to your satisfaction and we are fully aware of the calls and the need to increase our service levels and response times and we will shortly motivate for such improvements during upcoming contract renewal negotiations, however and ultimately this then becomes a decision our Councillors need to make, as it has substantial financial implications.

Having said that, I will try and ascertain whether within their current workload and contractual requirements, Armourguard would have capacity to send officers to Waipu Cove to do proactive monitoring and enforcement, as suggested and I'll get back to you on this.

Regards

**Reiner Mussle**

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**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: P. Halse & S. Deeming (WDC)**

**Subject: Dog control issues**

Hello Phil & Shelley.

Your colleague at WDC, Reiner Mussle has been very responsive to our situation at Waipu Cove. The essential problem for all concerned is insufficient funding to

effectively enforce Council bylaws especially over summer when over 1000 visitor stakeholders + many local residents come to the beach reserve every day over holidays and on fine weekends right through summer.

WDC Dog Control coverage is woefully inadequate due to funding constraints. Our Board & Camp staff have no credibility with public stakeholders when we try to intervene. Threatening behaviours towards us are quite common. We ask you to urgently bring this issue to your fellow Councillors because we believe there is a significant risk to public and animal (dogs & the protected wildlife reserve next door) safety at Waipu Cove Beach Reserve.

We really appreciate your ongoing support.

*John Henderson*

*Chair-WCRB*

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**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: S. Deeming (WDC)**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Re. Dog control issues**

Thank you for keeping me informed John.

I appreciate the difficulties you face with uncontrolled dogs in the beach area especially with regard to the bird sanctuary and the many visitors.

Phil and I will do the best we can to find ways to help especially with greater attendance by enforcement officers.

Regards

Shelley

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**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: All ASH**

**Subject: DoC policy change**

Good morning,

Please find attached important correspondence from DoC and the Waipu Cove Reserve Board concerning all Annual Site Holders.

Kind regards,

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes Secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

Attachments: WCRB letter from DoC, WCRB DoC re. ASH key messages, WCRB letter to ASH re. DoC policy change.

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**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: M. Bell**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Reserve Act**

Hello Board Members,

Can you please confirm that the change restricting camping to no more than 4 weeks total between 1 November and March 31st will apply to all areas in NZ after 2025 ..

Will Freedom Camping be allowed on Reserve..?

How many more cabins will be completed by 2025 ?

When will final Management plan be available ?

Is there any provision for the land to be sold ?

Thanks

Maureen Bell

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: M. Bell**

**Subject: Reserve Act**

Good evening Maureen,

Please find below the answers to your questions:

- Can you please confirm that the change restricting camping to no more than 4 weeks total between 1 November and March 31st will apply to all areas in NZ after 2025. **We cannot confirm. Please inquire with DoC Region Office Whangarei 09 470 3300.**
- Will Freedom Camping be allowed on Reserve? **No**
- How many more cabins will be completed by 2025? **By 2025 there will be a total of 16 cabins – 10 in the original cluster plus 6 in the middle area of the camp. This is as per the management plan.**
- When will final Management plan be available? **Our new 5 Year Plan is with DoC. We are modifying it to include recent ruling regarding ASH. The plan should be approved by DoC in the next 30 days.**
- Is there any provision for the land to be sold? **No because it's Crown Land.**

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes Secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**  
**From: Angus McCulloch**  
**To: WCRB**  
**Subject: Dogs on reserve**  
Fuel for the fire!  
Regards

Angus  
Attachments: Should you allow dogs to chase shore birds, 'IDiOtiC' mock-invite

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**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
**From: M. Bell**  
**To: WCRB**  
**Subject: Special meeting at Easter for ASH and concerned residents**

Dear Board Members,  
Could you please advise if any consideration has been given to holding a Special Meeting ( perhaps at Easter) so that ASH and concerned local residents (of which I am one)are able to hear reason and voice their concerns about the recent development re ASH that will tear apart our community on the whim of one man..  
Yes -this hurts so so many ,as having done all that was asked , contributed so, so much, reduced ASH to less than 40% over a relatively short timeframe , we feel trampled on ..  
As you know this week has been all about love and shared community spirit.  
Your site even mentions the many generations that have contributed and spread the love of our camp ..  
Can the representative from Doc that has made this decision also be invited to take part in the discussion, perhaps the sitting MP also .  
Is the Board on behalf of our Community going to ask for a Judicial Review ?  
Has any consideration be made to having every second board meeting on a Friday night which would be more easily attended by members of camp community who travel long distances to attend rather than just walking across the road ..

Kind regards  
Maureen Bell

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**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
**From: WCRB**  
**To: M. Bell**  
**Subject: Special meeting at Easter for ASH and concerned residents**

Morning Maureen.  
Answers to your questions....  
1. Appropriate for our Board to moderate a special meeting, if requested by a meaningful number of ASH. Questions, feedback, and discussion to come from ASH, not Board.  
2. Louisa Gritt, DoC Operations Manager Whangarei has offered to attend a meeting. She is away over Easter weekend. She could come down at the beginning of school holidays Friday 12 April. We are asking for assurances that the tone will not be abusive.  
3. Up to ASH to invite Whangarei/Waipu MP Dr. Shane Reti.  
5. Up to ASH to pursue a Judicial Review  
6. Happy to do Friday night Boards if there is a Board consensus to do it.

Cheers.  
*John Henderson*  
*Chair - WCRB*

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**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: Angus McCulloch**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Closing Camp Waipu Cove Storage Facility**

Dear Waipu Cove Reserve Board,

Thankyou for sharing the information regarding Annual Site Holdings in the camping ground on the public reserve at Waipu Cove on the Waipu Cove Reserve Board site. It would seem appropriate that you also write a letter to the public explaining why it was necessary to "negotiate" another 3 years to delay the very sensible requirement that you close down the storage facility part of the business and focus on making camping sites available to all on an equitable basis. An apology and an explanation to the 1200 or so families that will miss out on camping at Waipu Cove over those 3 years would be part of your public accountability role.

Regards

Angus McCulloch

Waipu Cove

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**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Angus McCulloch**

**Subject: Re. Closing Camp Waipu Cove Storage Facility**

Greetings Angus.

Our Board and DoC believe that we have reached an equitable settlement regarding Annual Site Holders at Camp Waipu Cove.

The correspondence is posted on our website and we do not contemplate further explanations being required.

In my opinion, your facetious language "*Closing Camp Waipu Cove Storage Service*" makes a mockery of a policy decision affecting 77 ASH families.

Families who have been an integral part of creating a positive Camp Waipu Cove culture for many years. I believe this flippant language diminishes your standing in our community.

*John Henderson*

*Chair - Waipu Cove Reserve Board*

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**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: Angus McCulloch**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: ASH/DoC policy change**

Hi John

The language is not facetious it is describing exactly what is happening. The 77 families are still able to camp at Waipu and hundreds of other families will be able to as well. It appears you have bought into the myth perpetrated by a group of self interested customers who believe they have some sort of extraordinary right.

If personal standing in a community is of importance over ensuring that community resources are that, then I am happy to pass.

In the interest of equal access for all to Waipu Cove Reserves

Regards

Angus

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**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**From: K. Waters**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Response to notification of removal of Annual Site Holders at Waipu Cove**

To the board and others,

It was disappointing to get the notification from the board that annual site holders are to gone from Waipu cove camping in six years, not so much for me, as I will be in my seventies by then but for the young families who will not have the fun and friendship that we have had.

I feel the model of Annual site Holders (ASH) providing financial stability to a local board which has been able to fund outstanding facilities is forward thinking and one that should be replicated rather than removed.

That the board has been able to do all that they have done, developed th camp, built facilities, remediated sand dunes, saved birds, and still end up with \$670 000 in the bank shows how successful this model is.

That people wish to camp here and that the camp is only full for 15 days a years, like most camps in New Zealand, shows that no one is being prevented from camping because of ASH sites.

I would like to suggest to the board that it pushes back on the Doc demand and that it puts forward a proposal that keeps ASH sites at 25%, and start allowing young families the same opportunities we have had.

I would also like to suggest that fees are lowered substantially to increase the use of the camp, because with \$670000 in the bank despite building luxury cabins and expensive tennis courts, charges are too high for many families. Even in a lovely weekend in March there seem to be only about 10% of casual sites being used.

What the boards have achieved over the last thirty years is outstanding and should be celebrated and held up as a perfect example of user pays whilst also paying for public amenities. The Department of Conservation should be encouraging this model not dismissing it.

It is incomprehensible to the local community and to the ASH campers why it is being discarded.

With regards  
Karen Waters

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**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

**From: goodGround Real Estate**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Business Breakfast**

Good afternoon,

It's now less than 1 week until our Business Breakfast on 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30am at The RAZZA, Waipu. Tickets must be purchased in advance so don't forget to book!

**Ken Couper** will be discussing the changing face of Waipu and **Shane Samtani** will be shedding some light on the recently released ratings valuations and what they mean for you and your property.

Follow the link below for all of the details.

<https://www.goodground.com/business-breakfast-2/>

We hope to see you there!

Kind Regards  
goodGround Real Estate Ltd

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**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: M. Bell**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Copy of letter sent to Barry Ashbridge (DoC)**

Dear Barry ,

Gosh, I thought my time of sending you letters were well and truly over but here I am again..

You can imagine the concern in our Waipu Cove community when in early March all of the ASH in our Waipu Cove Reserve Camp received the email advising that DOC were canceling their end of the agreement ..

Sorry not enough of our OLDER ASH died last year ..

My phone and email started running hot.

Devastated that against the recommendations of our present Board one agitator in our community would get his way ..

His many years mantra of "Not looking down on the trash of a camping ground" and "if he had his own way the Surf Club would be gone too

as it pollutes the view of the beach line"

Unbelievable ..

Well we (campers, present board,past boards,) did everything on our end of the agreements,relocated the camping areas from the only beachside areas to the wasteland of the Northern end .

Created a fabulous Public area with fantastic world class facilities, BBQ, picnic tables,shady trees, parking,surf lessons, boat launching area.

Now he complains too many people come and some even bring their dogs , so he harasses anyone he can bully often leaving them in tears.

As a result of the mix of ASH , Casual Campers, cabins - basic to Luxury we have now a Reserve to be truly proud of..World class..

Have any new reports as detailed as The Sept 2006 for Minister of DOC Chris Carter been done. If so I would love to see it .

When I was a young woman I gave up on a fight I was really quite passionate about and I have regretted it ever since terribly .

It was THE Environmentalists who were telling us how terrible that we were using paper bags and paper wrappings AND using glass bottles and jars .

THEY BULLIED OUR GENERATION INTO GIVING THEM UP and look where we are now --and where are they to take the blame !!!

Where will Waipu Cove Reserve be in 20 years -- we at least deserve to be part of the conversation..

Come and visit us some time - love to see you

Regards,  
Maureen Bell

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**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: All ASH**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Good evening,

Further to our correspondence dated 19th March regarding a DoC Policy change affecting annual site holders (ASH), a special meeting has been requested by some ASH and local residents. This meeting will be held at 7pm on Friday 12th April at the Waipu Cove Surf Club. Louisa Gritt, Operations Manager DoC Whangarei and Fiona Watson, Senior Ranger DoC will be in attendance to answer questions.

Kind regards,

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes Secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: A. McKenty**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Can you resend the correspondence from the 19 March? I can't find it?

Adrienne McKenty

(correspondence re-sent on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019)

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**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: Y. Mattson**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Is there any way this meeting can be moved to the Easter weekend when many more ASH campers will be able to attend please.

Thank you for considering

Regards

Yvonne Mattson

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**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**From: K. Waters**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Thank you for the notification of the meeting. Unfortunately I cannot be there. But I would like this question put to Department of Conservation

Traffic Management Plan

My baby grandson was killed in a low speed incident in a Whangarei car park three years ago so you will appreciate that the safety of children in the camp is my primary concern.

"It is noticeable already that at busy times, cars with caravans and boats are forced to queue out even to the road as they wait to book in. Also that the increased number of casuals has also increased the movement of vehicles around the camp already making it much more dangerous than it used to be.

I am not sure how the office will manage over the Christmas period with 230 sites booking in at the peak and how will DOC and the Board work to mitigate the danger to children holidaying in the camp that the increased movement of vehicles will bring.

Has DOC prepared a Traffic Management Plan to address the increased number of vehicles moving around the camp, and around the adjacent roads.

Karen Waters

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**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Y. Mattson**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Morning Yvonne,

Unfortunately the representatives from DoC were unable to attend a meeting over Easter.

Kind regards,

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes Secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**From: A. Kindred**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Thanks but is there an agenda or any commentary as to the points to be discussed?

Cheers, Alan Kindred

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**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: G. Shanaghan**

**Subject: Reserve By laws**

Good morning Greg,

I hope you're well. I've attached a copy of the Reserve Bylaws.

Kind regards,

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes Secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

Attachment: WCRB Bylaws

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**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: M. Ackland**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: What do you think?**

It has come to my attention that the reserve board has been erecting signs regarding uncontrolled dogs on the beach. I must question whether these signs have been erected because of Angus McCulloch's latest hate campaign, to eventually rid the beach of dogs? As a dog owner and regular user of the beach, I can say that it is very rarely do you see a dog out of control, and the dog owners are very responsible and quite frankly erecting these random signs seems to be out of context to warrant this reaction by the board. If you are going to continue to pander to Mr McCulloch's constant complaints you must therefore consider my complaint and many more residents that quite frankly are sick and tired of his what can only be described as erratic and out of control behaviour and maybe also erect signs saying "if you have been approached by a person telling you your dog is out of control, and to put the dog on a lead, and this person is not an authorised person to do this please call the council/police and place a complaint of harassment!"

I certainly hope you take into account the strong feelings of all the community and not just Mr McCulloch's. This community in my view has had enough of this man's constant campaigning and will no longer sit by and let his demands dictate what happens here because he screams the loudest. I do understand that it is the Reserve Board that seems to be his go to 'one stop complaints shop', and I do sympathise that you have to deal and respond to complaints.

Anyway last time I checked it was still Waipu Cove, NOT McCullochs Cove.

Regards  
Marie Ackland

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**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**From: WCRB**  
**To: M. Ackland**  
**Subject: What do you think?**

Afternoon Marie.

We have received a number of complaints about “dogs not under control” on our Beach and Reserve.

That has prompted us to put up signage listing the WDC Dog Control Complaints phone number because all enforcement activity rests with WDC.

Some of our Board Member are dog owners and we are not anti-dogs kept “under control” on the Reserve that we manage on behalf of DoC.

We are not pandering to anyone. Perhaps it is helpful to note that over the Xmas holidays and on fine weekends in summer, we now have up to 1000 people using the Beach Reserve.

That is a big change from the sleepy Waipu Cove most of us remember only a few years back and it now makes for potentially dangerous situations if dogs are not closely supervised.

Another concern is the Wildlife Sanctuary sitting right beside the beach. We hope this explanation reassures you of our good intentions. No one dictates to us.

Cheers.

*John Henderson*  
*Chair WCRB*

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**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**From: WCRB**  
**To: K. Waters**  
**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Good morning Karen,

Thank you for your email.

As the meeting has been called by ASH and you are unable to attend the meeting we would recommend you asking another ASH to put your questions on behalf of yourself to DOC or we can post your question on our website in the hope that someone will see this and ask for you. Please let us know if you would like this posted on the website.

Regards

Waipu Cove Reserve Board  
(Response requesting letter be posted to website – actioned)

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**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**From: WCRB**  
**To: A. Kindred**  
**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Good morning Alan

As the meeting has been requested by ASH there is no Agenda being created by the Board and we have not been made aware that one has been created. Perhaps ASH and the locals will put one together?

Kind regards

Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**From: L. Rooney**  
**To: WCRB**  
**Subject: Dog Control**

Thanks Marie for CCing me in to the correspondence. Complaints only began to manifest when Angus McCulloch started his crusade last October. A band wagon is easy to create and jump on. You say the area is different now as a 1000 people come to the cove. What you might have forgotten that during that period that 1000 people come to the cove there is a bye law that states NO DOGS ALLOWED between 21st of DECEMBER and the 1st of FEBRUARY between 9am and 5pm when most people are on the beach. John stop trying to interpret the bye law for a few who live in the community who have an axe to grind against innocent people going about their lawfull business. What is an out of control dog? A dog that barks at the waves, a dog playing stick on the beach or a dog barking at the sea gulls flying in the sky? I don't think you understand the level of resentment that is growing from the community against the crusade of one mans misguided belief around what constitutes an out of control dog. LET Me MAKE THE BYE LAW CLEAR FOR EVERYONE. There is no distance a dog can be away from the owner to not be in its control. I have been advised to call the police about a certain member of the communities behaviour.. If I was a woman and I was being filmed everyday I take my dog for a walk on the beach I could assert sexual harrassment. Maybe being a gay man I still can ! Ifor me It is all too convenient that suddenly there is a barage of complaints starting since a certain person in the community started a crusade. If you have board minutes relating to out of control dogs please advise all of us of the complaints recorded prior to August 2018? I doubt you have only a few if any!!! This is why i and many feel that you and the board are enabling the ramblings of someone who clearly has an axe to grind. I'm sure you would not accept the daily abuse that I have to go through everyday I take my dogs for their lawful walk on the beach each morning. I am harassed, intercepted, watched, and recorded. If I was the board I would not be subliminally condoning or enabling such behaviour. You are not Waipu Cove and what is becomming very clear to all of us YOU DONT REPRESENT US! I and Marie and Maureen are all attending the meeting on Friday Re: the ASH and I feel it is about time that the community represented themselves on all matters relating to Waipu Cove. From now on we will be talking directly with DOC as a community bye passing anything to do with the Waipu reserve board trust. After all I like many I actually live here, I actually work here, I actually contribute to the area and it is actually my permanent home! My opinion like all of us that live here actually counts. Last time we looked it was Waipu Cove not McCulloch Cove. I look forward to our next meeting where we can clear the air.

Regards  
Lloyd Rooney

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**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**From: M. Ackland**  
**To: WCRB**  
**Subject: Dog Control**

Well said Lloyd. I am confused regarding the boards decision, you feel compelled to take up one issue which is out of control dogs, although this is just rubbish, however you won't take up the issue of the communities concern re harassment!

Lloyd is completely correct in stating if he was a woman being filmed everyday, we would all be disgusted.

What Lloyd didn't mention was that I filmed Angus on Friday filming Lloyd and his dogs on the beach, when Lloyd went and picked up the dogs Po Angus put his phone down, then started filming again once Lloyd was back walking the dogs. I confronted Angus about his filming and how outrageous he was in his continued harassment. Of course he denied it. I walked away and he approached Maureen Bell and I and then stated that Lloyd's dogs bark at the seagulls! REALLY! No law against barking at seagulls that I'm aware of. As Maureen pointed out her grandchildren chase them, so will they become his next target?

Over all the years of being at Waipu Cove, one thing that is a common thread when there are any complaints and that is Angus McCulloch, I'm sure I don't need to point this out to members of the board.

What needs to happen is we need to work together to enable us all to be on the same page, if the board continue to take up one mans crusade and not be prepared to listen to other members of the community who have a different opinion, then we have a real problem!

Regards  
Marie Ackland

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**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
**From: WCRB**  
**To: M. Ackland & L. Rooney**  
**Subject: Dog Control**  
Afternoon Marie & Lloyd.

Please let me try to put our Board's actions into context.

We have posted signs advising the public to ring WDC dog control if they are concerned about dog behaviour because the NZ Reserves Act 1977 (see attached) is a legal requirement for us to do so.

Please note the draconian measures listed in **Clause 14 - Dog Control - NZ Reserves Act 1977**

Our only copy is hard to read so here is what it says...

**#14. Dogs**

*(1) No person shall bring any dog into the reserve, or allow any dog in his custody or charge or under his control to be within the reserve, unless in either case the dog led on a leash or is otherwise properly secured to the satisfaction of some person authorised by the board.*

*(2) Any person authorised by the board (either generally or in any particular case) may seize and detain any dog found within the reserve not secured as aforesaid. If the owner of the dog is not known to the board or cannot reasonably be ascertained, it shall be committed to the local pound or to the SPCA.*

No way are we going to determine what "under control" means and/or physically intervene although the Act tells us to do so. Our only action has been the signage.

We leave all monitoring & enforcement to WDC.

Meanwhile, we do understand your unhappiness with a local resident. However, we have no mandate or authority to pursue your complaints against that person.

Might we suggest you contact your local WDC Councillors Phil Halse & Shelley Deeming as the authorised persons to take your complaints to?

The Police can also deal with undue harassment against members of the public.

Lloyd you assert:

*1. You are not Waipu Cove and what is becoming very clear to all of us YOU DONT REPRESENT US!*

Absolutely correct. We are an unpaid volunteer Reserve Board appointed by DoC to manage the Campgrounds and Reserve adhering to the 1977 Reserves Act. Nothing else.

*2. I and Marie and Maureen are all attending the meeting on Friday Re: the ASH and I feel it is about time that the community represented themselves on all matters relating to Waipu Cove. From now on we will be talking directly with DOC as a community by passing anything to do with the Waipu reserve board trust.*

The Friday meeting has been requested by Annual Site Holders at the Camp and some local residents to meet with senior management from DoC to exclusively discuss the recent decision to terminate Annual Site Holder Agreements. This is a very emotive decision. Some ASH are driving up from Auckland straight after work to express their concerns between 7-8 pm. We only have one hour with DoC management. Don't think the meeting will respond well to anyone wanting to discuss other topics like dog management. Better to formally do that at our next AGM typically late August. Realise that is too long to wait so suggest you do take your concerns directly to DoC and WDC local councillors. Another option is to ask for speaking rights at our next local Board meeting on 29 April.

*3. After all I like many I actually live here, I actually work here, I actually contribute to the area and it is actually my permanent home! My opinion like all of us that live here actually counts.*

FACT: We have six volunteer Board Members who contribute to the area just like you do Lloyd. Four of us are very long term residents of the Cove and Waipu.

Our fifth member now lives at Waipu full time and I am at Langs Beach following 9 years at the Cove. All of us are locals!

We are copying DoC to keep them in the picture and we want to note that all correspondence with the public and minutes of our Board Meetings are on our website for public access.

Cheers.

John

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**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: Y. Mattson**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Hi Belinda,

I have had a few people contact me saying they never got the email about the meeting this Friday night?

Did this go out to all ASH ??

Also can you please advise where the meeting is being held??

Regards

Yvonne

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**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Y. Mattson**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Hi Yvonne,

The notification of the meeting was sent to the same email list (all ASH) as the original correspondence on 19th March regarding the change to the ASH policy. I believe a copy was posted to all ASH that don't have email addresses and it is also advertised on the Reserve Board page of the camp website. The meeting will be held at the Waipu Cove Surf Club to accommodate a potentially large turnout.

If you could advise me of anyone you're aware of that didn't receive the email, I can send on the details to them.

Kind regards

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes Secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: Y. Mattson**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Special meeting for ASH and concerned residents**

Thanks Belinda,

I will let the people know on my FB messenger group that has been started with ASH people.

Surf Club at 7pm.

Have a wonderful day, amazing weather in Auckland today.

Cheers

Yvonne

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: A. Bates & G. Hoffmann**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: ASH at Waipu Cove**

It has been brought to our attention that DOC have withdrawn permission for the ASH at Waipu Cove Reserve effective 2024.

Tony Bates and I (Glenys Hoffmann) have a property at Waipu Cove (16 years) and are disappointed that this withdrawal of permission has happened in our community without consultation of local residents/home owners and local businesses.

We appreciate that there has been dispensation for Waipu Cove campground in that the ASH did not have to move structures as per other DOC sites -ie Ruakaka etc however we do not believe that the ASH process in place at present is unfair or problematic.

We chose to purchase in Waipu Cove 16 years ago, due to the community, stability and family friendly feel which in part is as a result of the camping ground. The friendships that have been developed, the support for the surf life saving club, the pool of nippers for the club have seen Waipu remain as a traditional "kiwi beach lifestyle". We consider ourselves fortunate to have this and be a part of this community.

The loss of the annual site holders could be seen as damaging the heart of this small community.

ASH outside of peak holiday season tend to provide some stability to local business, the surf club as they are more than peak season fair weather campers

Some time ago DOC commissioned a survey/review of Camping opportunities in NZ - excerpt below - and provides an informative and balanced view about camping and ASH.

It is interesting that the ASH have provided consternation for the odd local resident however there is no such consternation for the booking process that allows return camping bookings nor the amount of cabins and cost per night of these which are generally out of the range a lot of NZers that enjoy camping.

We would like to see a working group representing local property owners, local business, ASH, campers, DOC, Waipu cove reserve board to see how we can retain ASH so that all needs are met.

In Italics - the two excerpts for the DOC Review reflect how we feel about the Waipu Cove Camping ground.

*There is an trend evident within camping NZ, that is a large number of NZ campers tend to return to the same location, indeed for many it is important that it is the same location, year after year for their holidays. These locations are often considered to be a second home, a place where the camper feels as strong a connection as in their real home. This connection is often initially driven by the physical attributes of the place (surrounding landscape, setting and good access to fishing areas ...) but develops into one that is driven by the social experience of being amongst a group of like minded campers. Many NZers grow up alongside each other at camping areas spending their summer holidays camping next to the same family. What develops is a real sense of community and shared ownership of these camping areas. This is why many camping areas have allowed semi-permanent occupation of sites to occur as a way of ensuring that these campers are able to access "their" site at their convenience.*

*69% of regular campers surveyed have a strong connection with a place and tend to return to the same camping area. Only 27% of all regular campers go to different sites.*

*It has been suggested that additional capacity over the peak period could be obtained by removing permanent or semi-permanent occupation of camping sites. Despite the requirements contained in the Reserves Act 1977 applying to all camping areas located on public reserve land, the position taken in this review is that these are obviously people who greatly enjoy the activity of camping and the location so much that they are prepared to invest time and money to be able to stay in these places for longer periods. Even if they were unable to have such permanent or semi-permanent arrangements it can reasonably be assumed that they would still be camping at these, or similar locations over the peak period anyway. Consequently there would be no net effect on the available capacity at this time and no need to investigate further in the review.*

*HAPNZ continues to advocate that many of their members permanent and semi-permanent camping provides an essential revenue stream that is independent of influences that may impact upon their main revenue earned from temporary campers. Revenue from these sites improves the resilience of many businesses allowing them to survive three years when the revenue earned from campers over the peak period is less than anticipated. EG - poor weather changes in tourist patterns etc*

**We urge a serious review of the decision to remove ASH effective from 2024.**

**Tony Bates and Glenys Hoffmann**

**Review of Camping Opportunities in NZ by DOC identified the following: (Note this is excerpts of the review)**

**From a Campers perspective**

- Social relationships
- The Environment
- The activity - simple, uncomplicated and no stress
- The experience - different to normal life

**Focus groups of regular campers consistently identified the same benefits - predominantly:**

- Being able to get outside and back to a simple, less complicated way of life
- Being able to spend quality time with family - doing things they don't have chance to do at other times the year
- Socialising with friends and other campers - the camping experience, for most people was very much a social experience. Regular campers spoke about the camaraderie and sense of common purpose they felt with, and among other campers
- Feeling as if you belong to a community - being able to see the same people every year and getting to know them a bit better each time was viewed extremely positively, particularly for campers who return to the same site
- Not having it too easy - of many regular campers, camping is about having to work a little bit harder but feeling a stronger degree of satisfaction about their achievements
- Time out and down time, particularly from an urban lifestyle. Camping is about slowing down, not worrying what's happening around you and forgetting about the stress of a normal urban lifestyle

-Safe and healthy fun for children, and installing a different set of values - for many regular campers, the activity is about education children that there is much more to life than playstations and tv  
-Appreciating the environment ( plants and animals)- considered to be an extremely important part of camping with children  
- Affordable holidaying - most regular campers agreed that camping is still an affordable holiday option for a family who might otherwise not be able to take a holiday

NZers tend to go camping in Summer School Holidays.

**Type of camping:**

Basic Campground with some facilities such as long drop and water - 37.7%  
Campground with flushing toilets, running water and a cooking area but no power - 29%  
Total 66.7% Unpowered

Campground with flushing toilets, water and cooking area - powered - 16.2 %  
A holiday park including hot showers, entertainment area - 7.1%  
Total 23.3 Powered

Dependent on time of year /needs - 10.1 %

Regular campers aged 35 years or less - camp at basic facilities with no power - 44% vs 29% for aged over 35 years.  
Camping is being driven by the younger generation. However it is dependent on the number of times and length of stay.

There is a trend evident within camping NZ, that a large number of NZ campers tend to return to the same location, indeed for many it is important that it is the same location, year after year for their holidays. These locations are often considered to be a second home, a place where the camper feels as strong a connection as in their real home. This connection is often initially driven by the physical attributes of the place (surrounding landscape, setting and good access to fishing areas ...) but develops into one that is driven by the social experience of being amongst a group of like minded campers. Many NZers grow up alongside each other at camping areas spending their summer holidays camping next to the same family. What develops is a real sense of community and shared ownership of these camping areas. This is why many camping areas have allowed semi-permanent occupation of sites to occur as a way of ensuring that these campers are able to access "their" site at their convenience.

69% of regular campers surveyed have a strong connection with a place and tend to return to the same camping area. Only 27% of all regular campers go to different sites.

It is obvious that people with such a strong connection to a place will be severely affected if they are unable to access that place. For these people the so of "their" camping area is not something that can simply be offset by moving to another camping area because the same physical and social characteristics are not likely to be replicated.

**Permanent and semi permanent camping:**

It has been suggested that additional capacity over the peak period could be obtained by removing permanent or semi-permanent occupation of camping sites. Despite the requirements contained in the Reserves Act 1977 applying to all camping areas located on public reserve land, the position taken in this review is that these are obviously people who greatly enjoy the activity of camping and the location so much that they are prepared to invest time and money to be able to stay in these places for longer periods. Even if they were unable to have such permanent or semi-permanent arrangements it can reasonably be assumed that they would still be camping at these, or similar locations over the peak period anyway. Consequently there would be no net effect on the available capacity at this time and no need to investigate further in the review.

HAPNZ continues to advocate that many of their members permanent and semi-permanent camping provides an essential revenue stream that is independent of influences that may impact upon their main revenue earned from temporary campers. Revenue from these sites improves the resilience of many businesses allowing them to survive three years when the revenue earned from campers over the peak period is less than anticipated. EG - poor weather changes in tourist patterns etc

HAPNZ also recognises that it is not in the interest of their members to have too many sites tied up in this way. This is because the revenue potential is far greater if the site is let on a nightly basis rather than subject to an annual rental. ....in this regard they believe that this issue is annotated as self regulating.

Fees:

Key DOC managed site principle - Fees should not be a significant barrier to the public recreating in protected areas or learning about conservation

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: A. Bates & G. Hoffmann**

**Subject:**

Evening Glenys & Tony.

Thanks for your very thoughtful and detailed feedback.

We are forwarding it to senior management at DoC to help them understand the depth of feelings at the Cove.

Perhaps you already know about a meeting with ASH, DoC senior management and our Board this coming Friday 12th at 7 pm.

Venue is Surf Club.

Cheers.

*John Henderson*

*Chair WCRB*

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**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: D. Weston**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Waipu Cove - Special Ash Meeting 12th April 2019**

Hi Belinda,

David Weston here.

Thanks for your emails and messages concerning the above.

We (ASH Site 208) had planned to drive up this afternoon for the weekend to attend the above meeting and conversation however, medical matters for me in these past weeks have today finally conspired to prevent our personal attendance this evening.

To say this has added to my existing frustrations is an understatement as I want to be part of the conversation..

Would you please record our sincere apologies for being unable to attend and ask someone to read out this message

Our family (and our descendants) have been coming to Waipu and the much wider surrounding districts for many many years. After years of caravanning at The Cove at various holiday times, we qualified and became accepted by the then Board as Annual Site Holders. We assisted with various working bees, planting shrubs and trees, general support that has continued over these years. Many years later we transitioned with all our other compatriots to the current Annual Site Holder contract. Lucy, Anton & family arrived and a professional management attitude drove the quality and facilities forwards.

Now, the people we camp with down at the Cove have become our families. Some we greet every visit, attend their funerals, births, weddings and celebrations.

They and their families have also become the "grownups", playmates, uncles, aunties & friends to our children and now grandchildren and vice-versa; they've become part of the fabric of life here.

Some we don't see all that often but we know that they, and we, are part of something special. A very Kiwi experience following the paths of generations of our families throughout New Zealand before us.

Each year now, we greet & welcome the return of "the Swallows", the same annual seasonal holiday makers and their families again - ours mix with theirs and they become each others "summer holiday friends". Remember those days?

With the many memorable, comfortable, easy relationships these days being disrupted or changed by ever encroaching unintended external commercial, personal, modern realities & interests, it would be difficult to say goodbye to these folk whom gather just for the simple, uncomplicated act of camping together.

Do your best; we appreciate your endeavours.

Kindest regards

David Weston

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**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: D. Weston**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Waipu Cove - Special Ash Meeting 12th April 2019**

Hi David,

I'm sorry to hear of your health troubles. As the meeting has been called by ASH, we have suggested to those unable to attend that they ask another ASH to put their comments on their behalf to DOC. Hopefully you're able to contact someone to do this. I will include your email in the on-line correspondence document that is available to be viewed on the Reserve Board page of the camp website.

Best wishes,

Belinda Hopkins – Minutes secretary, Waipu Cove Reserve Board

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**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: A. Kindred**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: ASH fees 2019/2020**

You have to be bloody joking.

How out of touch are the board?

An increase!

Last week we are told in the recent letter the removal of ASH is required in the next 5 years because funds are in a satisfactory position and therefore annual site holders are "no longer needed"

You were at that meeting so you must have felt some trepidation in sending this email.

Is the board insensitive?

Or don't they care because the "natural attrition" plan has to be accelerated. As stated by one person at the meeting, "we will be driven out by financial stealth"

Definitely the mood of ASH holders is not being understood.

I am amazed at the gall of each and every board member who attended last Fridays meeting knowing that over a month ago they were raising the ASH fees but no mention of increases nor at least stabilised fees was made.

This truly is a disappointing scenario.

Cheers, Alan Kindred

Site 204

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**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: A. Kindred**

**Subject: ASH fees 2019/2020**

Afternoon Alan.

Have thought quite a bit about your letter and how best to respond.

After 21 years of official annual waivers granted for ASH, we do understand how upsetting the recent policy decision is for you and for the others.

You know the position our Board had taken regarding the future of ASH and we do hope that you will continue to book your site as a casual after ASH ceases end June 2025.

We feel an obligation to keep the Camp on a strong financial footing for funding ongoing capital improvements.

Some of these projects are not optional such as a new drainage scheme to protect the Camp from forecast sea rise in next 5-10 years.

Then there is the existing storm water flooding problem caused by run off coming from the hills above Cove Rd.

No doubt you have seen the annual ponding on the front entrance lawns that forces us to close that area.

Northern Regional Council has recently established a mandatory 2.5 meter floor level above mean sea rise for all new buildings on the coast.

This will affect our planned renovation/expansion of the Camp reception building (leaky building) to replace rotten timbers and address other building code and Health & Safety defects.

We also need to demolish the old dilapidated garage beside the reception building now used for Camp storage. Preliminary cost estimates for all of this are around \$1 million.

The 1.5 % ASH fee increase for the new season is based on the official NZ rate of inflation for 2018 meaning we are only keeping up with overall cost increases for operating the Camp.

Tying annual camping fee increases to inflation should enable us to conserve our cash reserves needed to pay for big projects.

The \$78 fee increase for most ASH for 2019/20 will keep our camping pricing at the mean average of similar campgrounds around NZ.

We do hope this explanation reassures you of our genuine concern for ASH and of our commitment to maintain Camp Waipu Cove as the best experience it can be for all stakeholders.

*John Henderson*

*Chair - WCRB*

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**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: A. Kindred**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: ASH fees 2019/2020**

Thanks John.

Your explanation makes the increase understandable

Perhaps the letter re the increase could have highlighted these requirements as bullet points leading to a clearer understanding of the future maintenance and requirements of the camp.

I am sure being on the board is no easy task. I appreciate the commitment you have made to ensure the continued enjoyment of Camp Waipu Cove by the rest of ASH people and the public at large.

Thank you again,

Alan

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**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: A. Kindred**

**Subject: ASH fees 2019/2020**

Cheers Alan.

Good suggestion to tell all ASH about our ongoing capex programme.

We will do so.

Enjoy your Easter.

Best.

John

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: Y. Mattson on behalf of ASH**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: DoC Policy change**

[Click here to view letter](#)

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Y. Mattson on behalf of ASH**

**Subject: DoC Policy change**

Evening Yvonne & Nicola.

Let me begin by sincerely saying that our Board does feel sorry for what has happened to ASH.

Speaking personally, If I was in your shoes, I too would be upset just as you and others are.

Having re-assured you about this, let me push back on a number of your assertions:

1. "Correct procedures had not been followed regarding ASH sites and the Management Plan 2017.

[This statement is incorrect. We have followed all requirements of the Reserves Act under which we are appointed by DoC.](#)

[We think what you heard was that DoC has not approved our latest Five Year Operating Plan because they want it to show that ASH site waivers are being dis-continued effective June 2025 and following notification from DoC that this is happening, we have amended our Plan. We believe you also heard DoC say they wanted more feedback from our Board back to submitters on our Plan with possible amendments to the Plan based on those submissions. This is being done.](#)

2. We find it hard to believe that not one Board Member picked up or realised that DoC had not made comment or submitted on this Plan. [This statement is unfair and misleading because our Reserve Boards have been submitting Five Year Plans directly to DoC for about 30 years. We have not seen any evidence that DoC has ever formally submitted themselves. What they often do is to notify us of amendments they want to see....and we respond accordingly. Louisa was disappointed that DoC themselves did not submit this time. This is an internal DoC issue. DoC is our parent and we are not responsible for their actions.](#)

3. In a decision of this magnitude we think we deserved way more consideration and respect than what has been "dished" out to us. [Our Board did not make the decision to cease ASH site waivers. This came from DoC.](#)

4. We are very disappointed with the result of recent meetings between the board and DoC and feel that the Board should have pushed back harder and demanded more from DoC.

[DoC asked to meet with us end October 2018. They stated that termination of the ASH site waivers was a done deal and not negotiable. What was on offer for negotiation was the effective date of the policy change. DoC's internal preference was to end ASH site waivers two years after the current season. Our Board members pushed back hard on this timing and eventually we settled on five years notice after the current year. While we don't expect any thanks from ASH, we do want you to know these facts.](#)

5. The board would be very aware that over the past 10 years there has been steady decrease in ASH and given the average age of the remaining ASH that this decrease will continue regardless that this past year it was apparently only one. This point should have been pushed home.

[Our Board has made this point repeatedly to DoC. \(See our letter dated 23 July 2018-below\).](#)

6. At the very least the Board should of consulted with ASH instead of accepting this situation and then not telling anyone.....

Louisa Gritt explained at the recent meeting with ASH that our informal agreement regarding the five year notice period was not final until DoC ministerial approval and for our Board to formally accept the decision. Both parties agreed it was not proper to announce this decision until DoC issued a formal a letter to our Board. We wrote to all ASH immediately afterwards.

7. We expect our Board to be fighting for us.

What else would you expect us to have done? The ASH site waiver was not negotiable so we tried to make the best of the situation by pushing the effective date back by three extra years. Personally speaking, my only other option would have been to resign as Chair and Board Member in protest against the DoC decision.

However, I chose to lead our effort to secure more time for ASH to adjust to the policy decision.

Let me close with a reminder that our Board is 5 local unpaid volunteers trying to represent the best interests of all of our public stakeholders.

The recent ASH decision is not an easy one for us or our camp managers to manage.

All of us are doing our best to help everyone make the transition and we hope most ASH will come back after June 2025.

Please consider withdrawing your criticisms in the interests of fair play.

P.S. Not sure how many others have asked for speaking rights at our next Board meeting on 29 April?

Asking our minutes secretary to let you know.

John Henderson, Chair - WCRB

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**Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: ASH**

**Subject: ASH fee increase**

Dear Annual Site Holder,

Our 1.5% ASH fee increase for the new season is based on the official NZ rate of inflation for 2018 meaning we are only keeping up with overall cost increases for operating the Camp.

Tying annual camping fee increases to inflation should enable us to conserve our cash reserves needed to pay for big projects.

The \$78 fee increase for most ASH for 2019/20 will keep our camping pricing at the mean average of similar campgrounds around NZ.

We feel an obligation to keep the Camp on a strong financial footing for funding ongoing capital improvements. Some of these projects are not optional such as a new drainage scheme to protect the Camp from forecast sea rise in next 5-10 years.

Then there is the existing storm water flooding problem caused by run off coming from the hills above Cove Rd. No doubt you have seen the annual ponding on the front entrance lawns that forces us to close that area.

Northern Regional Council has recently established a mandatory 2.5 meter floor level above mean high tide for all new buildings on the coast.

This will affect our planned renovation/expansion of the Camp reception building (leaky building) to replace rotten timbers and address other building code and Health & Safety defects.

We also need to demolish the old dilapidated garage beside the reception building now used for Camp storage. Preliminary cost estimates for all of this are around \$1 million.

We trust this explanation reassures you of our commitment to maintain Camp Waipu Cove as the best camping experience it can be for all stakeholders.

We do hope that you will continue to book your site after ASH ceases end June 2025.

Yours sincerely

John Henderson, Chair – WCRB

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**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**From: Angus McCulloch**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Public discussion around annual site holdings**

Dear Board,

It is good to see this subject being discussed in the public forum.

In response to some of the statements in the ongoing correspondence around Annual Site Holdings I would like attention focused on the following basic principles.

The Waipu Cove Reserves are public lands, administered on behalf of all New Zealanders by the Waipu Cove Reserves Board, duly appointed by the Department of Conservation. As such, any actions by the Board must be primarily in the best interests of the public.

The Annual Site Agreement is clear on the fact it is annual, sites are for recreational use only (not residential or business) not to be sublet and subject to a number of other conditions.

Waipu Cove Reserves and beach are such amazing recreational resources for New Zealand so ensuring equitable access to all is achieved as soon as possible.

Regards

Angus McCulloch

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**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

**From: Angus McCulloch**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: A matter of public record**

Dear Board,

My actions have been inaccurately related in a letter of 7th of April published on your website.

"I filmed Angus on Friday filming Lloyd and his dogs on the beach, when Lloyd went and picked up the dogs Po Angus put his phone down, then started filming again once Lloyd was back walking the dogs. I confronted Angus about his filming and how outrageous he was in his continued harassment. Of course he denied it."

Please view the four videos that were taken on the morning of 5th April at Waipu Cove Reserve on my phone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Bpuiwhtwlo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7uOWPMErTD8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6sTfFSyxN8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGQ3xmchLN4>

The purpose of the filming is clear and had no relation to anybody else on the beach at that time.

Please post this in your correspondence file on your website.

Regards

Angus McCulloch

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**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

**From: Maureen Bell**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Waipu Cove Reserve camp**

Hi there,

Just a follow -up to some of my questions.

1. Could you please advise if the final Management Plan has been returned and approved yet?
2. Could you please advise under which section of the Reserves Act the Permanent Cabins have been built?
3. Have DoC been given the details of the extensive capital expenditure proposed - approx one million dollars to replace existing camp entrance buildings etc? this was explained in reply to an ASH letter as a reason re fee increases ..
4. How many ASH sites have not been taken up this year so far?
5. Has DoC confirmed that they will be using the same criteria for all camping reserves in New Zealand, that is no more than 4 weeks from Nov 1st to March 31st. Has the Board asked them?

Thanks,

Maureen Bell

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**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019**

**From: Y.Mattson on behalf of (most) ASH**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: DoC Policy Change**

Good Evening,

Please find attached a letter once again outlining our concerns re lack of response or consideration of our original letter dated 22nd April 2019.

Regards

On behalf of ASH

Yvonne Mattson

[Click here to view letter](#)

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**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Maureen Bell**

**Subject: Waipu Cove Reserve camp**

Hello Maureen.

Answers to your questions in blue:

1. Could you please advise if the final Management Plan has been returned and approved yet?

**No.**

2. Could you please advise under which section of the Reserves Act the Permanent Cabins have been built .?

**The Reserve is on Crown Land, and is administered under the Reserves Act 1977 by DoC. They have delegated authority to our Board to develop the Camp.**

**Building the existing cabins was included in previous Five Year Management Plans and the new ones to be built are part of the new Draft Plan.**

3. Have DoC been given the details of the extensive capital expenditure proposed - approx one million dollars to replace existing camp entrance buildings etc ? this was explained in reply to an ASH letter as a reason re fee increases ..

**Re-development of the entrance buildings and improvements to the drainage coming off Cove Road are included in our Draft Plan.**

4. How many ASH sites have not been taken up this year so far ..

**We know of 3.**

5. Has DoC confirmed that they will be using the same criteria for all camping reserves in New Zealand , that is no more than 4 weeks from Nov 1st to March 31st . Has the Board asked them ?

**Yes. This was confirmed by Louisa Gritt at the recent meeting with ASH.**

Cheers,

John Henderson, Chair – WCRB

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**From: B & G Fisher**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: Sale of caravan**

[Click here to view letter](#)

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: B & G Fisher**

**Subject: Sale of caravan**

Greetings Mr & Mrs Fisher.

Responding to your letter dated 2 May 2019.

Our Board understands your wanting to avoid paying for a full new season while you are trying to sell your caravan. We trust you can accept our need to be consistent with policy regarding this situation given that others may well approach us.

We ask you to pay for the new season in full by 1 July 2019 with a commitment from us that if you sell the caravan before 30 September 2019 and vacate a clean site (three months from now) we will refund the remaining months back to you.

Hoping this works for you.

Best Wishes.

John Henderson, Chair – WCRB

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Y. Mattson on behalf of most (not all) ASH**

**Subject: DoC Policy Change**

Good morning Yvonne.

Both of your letters and my response back to you have been discussed and endorsed by the Board.

Board protocol is for all correspondence addressed to us to be answered by the Chair on behalf of the Board.

I apologise for getting you name wrong. Perhaps you can understand why when you look at your signature.

My same day reply to your letter was necessary to accommodate your request for Nicola to speak at our upcoming Board meeting due your letter being received in the evening of the seven day cut off date for Board speaking requests.

I was trying to fit Nicola in on 29 April rather than telling her she would have to wait another month.

Our meeting agenda on the 29th was altered to include formal speaking time for Nicola.

Disappointing that she was a no show because Board Members would have discussed and responded to your letter with the discussion minuted and posted.

If Nicola or other ASH still want to address the entire Board to discuss your letter, they are welcome to do so by contacting our Board email.

Your letter was scanned to me at home on the evening of 22 April and I spent several hours that evening composing our response.

We manage Board correspondence by email rather than waiting for the next meeting up to 30 days later.

You say my letter was written in "extreme haste". Please withdraw that inaccurate assertion.

The Board agrees my reply was complete and it addressed all of your points. It was copied to all Board members and to DoC Management.

On what basis do you claim my letter to you was not comprehensive or well thought out? Why do you call it a "knee jerk reaction"?

What is missing in my reply?

This choice of words diminishes your standing with the Board. Please withdraw them.

Your inwards correspondence was noted on the agenda/minutes correspondence for the April meeting and is also included in the online correspondence document so we not sure why you think it wasn't.

My response back to your first letter was inadvertently not copied to our minutes secretary for posting to our website. That is now sorted.

Yes Yvonne, we do agree the decision from DoC is of great importance to all of us.

That is why our Board organised the recent well attended meeting with ASH and Senior Management from DoC.

We chose a Friday night to accommodate ASH driving up from Auckland. We coordinated the agenda with these officials. We organised the venue and notified all ASH.

The policy change was explained in detail to ASH and the local community by Louisa Gritt, Operations Manger, DoC Whangarei.

Minutes from the meeting are posted on our site. We don't know what else you or the others who signed your letter want from us regarding the policy decision coming from DoC?

Yes, you are unhappy. We get that and we have acknowledged how you must be feeling. We are trying to assist everyone in preparing for the transition.

On behalf of our Board, I once again ask you to withdraw highly critical and subjective statements in both of your letters. They are inaccurate, unfair, and rude.

John Henderson, Chair - WCRB

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**From: Y. Mattson**

**To: WCRB**

**Subject: DoC Policy Change**

Good afternoon John,

Thanks for clearing that up.

Can you also advise if full copies of both our ASH Letters addressed to the board have gone to Louisa Gritt and Fiona Watson?

As I notice they have been 'cc' into your replies.

Thank You

Regards

Yvonne Mattson

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**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**From: WCRB**

**To: Y. Mattson**

**Subject: DoC Policy Change**

Evening Yvonne.

Yes, both of your letters have been sent to Louisa & Fiona at DoC.

John