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WAIKAWAU BOAT RAMP SOCIETY NEWSLETTER # 2 - NOVEMBER 2020



Hi everyone, these newsletters were requested by those attendings this year's AGM and by the sound of it, the first one was pretty well received.

A big part of our Ramp are our wardens. These guys basically do it for nothing and I thought our newsletter was a good way for our members to meet some of them and realise that they enjoy the same things in life as we all do. We will introduce more wardens in the next newsletter.

The last couple of months have been fairly busy at the ramp. With the summer just about on us, it will only get busier so please remember, just slow down, take a breath and it will be all okay.

The channel is in good condition and we have our fingers crossed that it stays that way.

Our next newsletter will be after the New Year so until then, have a safe and enjoyable Xmas and New Year and be kind to your fellow fisho's. Regards Eric Carter

Meet the Wardens

Warden Organiser: My name is Peter Hudson



and I retired to Thames about 10 years ago and have been a warden on the Waikawau Boat Ramp for around 8 years now.

I have a keen interest in tennis, gardening and playing 500. I've done work for NIWA and enjoy fishing and being involved with the Waikawau Boat Ramp Society.

My family used to holiday in the Waikawau area in the 80s and I have great hope that the area and the Boat Ramp Society will continue to go from strength to strength.



Hi, I am Rowan Christini and I live in Cambridge and have been a member from when we poured the concrete. I am passionate about fishing and Holdens, being involved with the Holden National Car Shows for years.

An ex dairy farmer and Tirau business

owner, I love meeting people and enjoy my regular warden duties at the Waikawau Boat Ramp.

My name is John Sanford, after dairy farming on the Hauraki Plains for many years I now operate a dry stock block up the coast



but in the past, I have been heavily involved with Federated Farmers and the Waikato Regional Council. With grandchildren in Hamilton and Wellington and chairing the Thames Search and Rescue I am kept busy but the development of Waikawau is a real passion of mine.

Hi my name is Bill Malcolm and I am an ex butcher from Hamilton. After retiring to Colville in 1990, I decided to move to Thames and have been a member of Waikawau ever since. I enjoy meeting people and love my Ramp Warden work. I am a very keen fisherman and would be out there every day if I could. Family, gardening and following sport are my other key interests.



My name is Terry Hawkeswood and I have lived all my life on the Coromandel farming, truck driving, contracting and now operating a Raspberry and Blackberry farm locally.

Fishing and scuba diving are and have been my key interests and that is why I love to help others get out on the water by being a regular Waikawau Ramp Warden.



Where to go to find updates - on our website

www.waikawaubotramp.co.nz

also on facebook

Waikawau and Kaiaua fishing group

Peninsula fishing group

How has the fishing been these last few months?

Covid 19 has slowed things down but over these last few months our Waikawau Ramp has been on



fire. Usually the big numbers hit us on the weekends but recently not just the Mondays and Fridays have been busy but almost any other day of the week. Congratulations to all our members as this is

why you have joined our Society and it is good to see you making the most of it, the patience you show is appreciated. Recent dredging means it is back to all tide access at the moment but if in doubt just work the ramp an hour either side of low tide.

Are good fish being caught during these recent months? You better believe it, so get out there!

Ramp Etiquette:

Skippers are asked to be "Ramp Ready" when they line up at Waikawau. "In and out" is the cry. Both sides of the ramp can be used for launching when there are no boats returning, otherwise launch, using the lane nearest the road bridge.

After launching please make sure that the ramp is cleared quickly, ready for the next boat to launch.

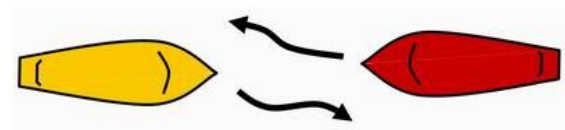
ALWAYS ENSURE THAT THE COAST ROAD IS KEPT CLEAR. It is safer to form more lines inside the Waikawau Reserve than block the main road.

Road Rules of the Seas (Maritime NZ)

The easy way to remember which side to pass is that it is OPPOSITE to the road rules

Power boats meeting head on

Each boat must alter course to starboard (right) to pass on the port (left) side of the other—the opposite to driving on the road.



The **5 Knot (walking pace) Rule** applies when within 200 metres of shore and always observe the **30 metre distance rule**, when fishing close to the barges.

What it takes to dredge our Waikawau Stream

Under our consent we must notify many parties 10 days prior to dredging. We assess what machines are needed and what tide is best as we can only dredge 3hrs either side of low. We look for the lowest tide set to achieve the best results.

Fortunately, we have had our current contractors from the start and they have a good understanding of what our needs are.

We also have a warden in attendance to make sure our boaties are aware of the machinery and do not park in the way. It is the same when we deposit the material.

Annual dredging costs over the past 10 years have ranged from \$35k to \$75k depending on weather events.