



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MAI I TE WĀPU

FROM THE WHARF

VOLUME 2 - ISSUE 2 - DECEMBER 2022

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MAI I TE WĀPU

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the second and final edition of the South Port Community Newsletter – Mai i te Wāpu (from the Wharf) - for 2022. As always, we are pleased to inform you about infrastructure projects, news, events, and general information about the Port.

In August, we went to you, the Bluff community, to ask for your feedback on our performance. We were thrilled with the number of responses we received, and the variety of feedback gave us a great starting point to ensure we're going the extra mile - not only in the community engagement space, but also in other areas of the Company and around the Port. You'll read about the results and what action we are taking further in this newsletter.

You'll also find information on recruitment, and our latest staff profile, which features Zaul Pirangi, who has been with South Port since 2012.

Conservation Week was from 5 to 11 September. The team across the board at South Port enjoyed putting in some hard mahi, planting native bush alongside the Bluff Hill Motupōhue Environment Trust (BHMET), which we're proud to tell you about. This also ties in with us further building on our relationship with BHMET, to help them preserve our iconic and unique piece of New Zealand, by restoring and protecting the natural environment around Bluff Hill.

We thoroughly hope that you enjoy the read.

Ngā mihi,
Charlotte Scoles

CHANGING GEARS

Tēnā koutou katoa,

As this is our final edition of Mai i te Wāpu for the year, it is appropriate that we look at the past year and some of our most notable achievements.



Firstly, we completed the development of the Town Wharf accessway, pipeline corridor, and discharge platform after five years of design and planning. This project was well managed from within the organisation and was completed on time and within budget. However, there was some disruption during the construction period, with the closure of the Foreshore Road and the walkway. Therefore, we thank the community for your patience during this period. Through this process we could share some of the Australian hardwood removed from the old town wharf structure with community groups, which has been put to good use.

On 31 August 2022, the Company was issued resource consent to deepen the channel, swinging basin, and berth pockets. This was an important milestone for the Company and an exciting opportunity to improve our current offering to shipping companies transiting through the Port of Bluff. During this process, we held “coffee and chat sessions” in the community and consulted with all the major stakeholders. The Company was very humbled and thankful for the support at these sessions and the written submissions received for the consenting process.

In a similar breath, we welcomed Heron Contracting to the Port in August 2022 to carry out some dredging in the channel under an existing coastal permit. This exercise proved very successful, with a significant amount of fractured rock (from drill and blast campaigns in the 70's and 80's) being removed from the channel. Although the contractors were here longer than anticipated, they thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality of the southern region and would enjoy coming back if presented the opportunity in the future. It was also great to see local residents employed by Heron Contracting to work on this project while they were in Port.

We held our first community survey this year and were pleasantly surprised by the number of respondents and the feedback received (note more information contained within this newsletter). Again, a big thank you to all who made an effort to respond, as this type of feedback will help us improve how we interact with our community.

Looking ahead to 2023, a lot is happening in the Southern Region. NZAS, a significant customer of South Port, is working through its remediation process and renegotiating with the power companies to keep operating after December 2024. South Port will look to carry out dredging in the channel, swinging basin, and berth pockets to complete the work under our new consent. Meridian Energy is working alongside Woodside Energy to determine if there is a pathway ahead for developing a regional hydrogen plant. The Southland Just Transition group has been working diligently in several areas to provide opportunities for the region should NZAS close. Even if NZAS remains open, this is essential work as most of these pathways can still be progressed, one of which is open ocean aquaculture that is an important opportunity for the Bluff township. Hopefully, we will also fit in a Port open day in 2023, as we have recently had a few recent setbacks due to a certain pandemic!

I want to sign off by thanking our incredible staff at the Port. We don't always get it right, but we endeavour to make South Port a great place to work, learn and hopefully enjoy each other's company.

Finally, the team at South Port would like to offer you a Merry Christmas, and hopefully, we all get to share some quality time with friends and whānau.

Ngā mihi nui,
Nigel Gear

2022 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

Back in August, we reached out to the Bluff community by way of a mail drop, forms at the Bluff Service Centre, and targeted advertising on social media, to find out how we were doing and what we might need to improve on.

After two weeks, we received almost 120 completed forms - primarily through our online survey, with a small handful completed with a traditional hand-written form.

We said we would share the relevant results with you and our journey along the way as we look to put this feedback into play. Below is a cross-section outlining some of the questions we asked, and a small portion of the responses.

Interesting relevant stories about the locals who work at Southport and what they get up to within the community.

Projects proposed.

What they are planning to do for the betterment of the Bluff community.



QUESTION THREE

What kind of **information** would you like to see included in the community newsletter?

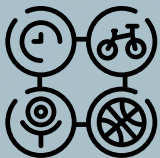
This has brought back that community feel.

Great read! Maybe the odd flash back into the early days at the Port? Also a job vacancy segment?

Share all the things they do in the community?

QUESTION FOUR

In your opinion, is South Port **active enough** in the community?



56% Yes

23% No

21% Unsure

Far more active than before. Good to see, ka pai.

Yes, in the last while, it has got more active. The support given to the BHMET is amazing!

We are kept informed of any relevant issues that may affect us, and South Port supports many and various organisations in many ways!

Swimming place for kids.

Involve the younger generation, involve the schools, teach them about what happens on the Port and how valuable it is to support local.

Promote safety initiatives we are taking more to help community understand changes that have happened over time.

They do a great job.



QUESTION FIVE

Can you tell us **why**?

Donation of man hours and equipment. Keep up involvement with groups such as Bluff 2024.

Allow fishing on the old wharf.

Great support for kids in the schools, very educational!



They look after
and care for
their workers.

QUESTION NINE

Can you tell us **why** South Port is a good or bad employer?

I know first hand
because I work there!
They provide
significant training
opportunities,
opportunities for
improvement and
advancement, and I
believe genuinely care
about their
employees.

They're good
because I have
family and friends
there.

Many employees have
been at South Port for
years, showing
conditions and
relationships must be
good.



QUESTION TEN

Is there anything else you would like to **tell us**?

We received over 60 comments within this section, of which was evidently broken down into the following categories:

COMMUNITY FOCUS

TRANSPORT

POSITIVITY

OPERATIONS ON PORT

HEALTH AND SAFETY

RUBBISH

NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION

All feedback received in our first Community Engagement Survey was compiled and reported on, with a presentation submitted to South Port's Board of Directors. Critical feedback areas were identified and will be a focal point for the months and years to come.

As we review the feedback suggested by the community, we will ensure to reciprocate and provide feedback to you all as we progress. In line with this, we are proud to share the feedback we received about this newsletter not being printed on recycled paper - alas, this has since been changed!

We will look to hold our follow-up survey in approximately 18 - 24 months.

PRIZE WINNERS

Photos of our \$100 Prezzy Card winners.



▶ CELEBRATING RETIREMENT

After 43 years with South Port, Blair Cousins is closing the chapter on a long and impressive career.

Turn back the clock to 1979, and a 19-year-old Blair applied for the Engineering Technician/Cadet position with the Southland Harbour Board. Blair found it "virtually impossible" to gain a job in the engineering field in Nelson (his home then), so he decided to venture further afield and set up in the deep south.

Blair was also an integral part of the social club committee. In the early days, the social club included work colleagues and their partners, who were always looking at ways to get staff connecting outside of the typical workday. Blair was always in the thick of organising events, especially the annual picnic and Christmas function, which had a heavy focus on family and were a great tradition for many years.

A lot has changed since Blair first started! The Island Harbour was only in stage 2 of its development, a significant project that kept Blair and other engineers busy into the early eighties. After this, he moved into the role of Port Services Engineer, supervising contractors as they completed capital works, repairs, and maintenance.

Blair has been responsible for the operation

and maintenance of the Syncrolift facility since 2018 and was a qualified Dockmaster at the time of his retirement. Over the past couple of years, Blair has spent time training and transitioning Rob Dixon to ensure the facility is in safe hands as he departs.

Bluff is home now, and his youngest son Phillip still lives here with his three children. His eldest son Bryce lives in Rotorua with his family (including a baby on the way), and his daughter Renee lives in Christchurch with two children.

Outside of work, Blair enjoys reading, constructing models of ships, and DIY around the house. The Bluff Volunteer Fire Brigade was a big part of his life for 20 years, with lots of socialising in the early days resulting in lifelong friendships. Blair appreciated that South Port supported him and other fire and ambulance volunteers when they needed time off for emergency callouts.

We wish Blair all the best and can not thank him enough for his 43 years of devoted, loyal service to South Port.



Blair Cousins
October 2022



▶ 2022 DROP FOR YOUTH

On 26 November, Warren Topi (Ratbag), South Port's Marine Operator - Tugs, took the leap off AJ Hackett Kawarau Bridge Bungy in Queenstown for the 2022 Drop for Youth fundraising event, organised by the Graham Dingle Foundation. When asked why he was keen to participate, Warren said that "our southern youth face many challenges in this ever-changing world, and I am passionate about supporting this charity which believes that every child is owed the opportunity to thrive, belong, and live a fulfilling life."

Warren raised a whopping \$5,515 - taking out the Southern fundraising leaderboard. Ka pai!

► STAFF PROFILE: ZAUL PIRANGI

Zaul Pirangi began his career at South Port as a Cold Stores casual while at high school in 2012, gaining a permanent position as a forklift/store operator in 2014. Zaul transferred to General Cargo in 2018 where he has continued to grow his knowledge and skill on machinery, often stepping into other departments and working on container exchanges.

In his current role, Zaul operates the Port's array of heavy machinery, including container handlers and mobile harbour cranes. Acknowledged by the Company, and his peers, as a "quiet shining star," Zaul has continued to grow with South Port and is an experienced, valuable member of the Team.

Zaul's favourite part of the job is operating cranes. Another enjoyable part of his role is the chance to work in other Container Division teams and learning what their jobs entail.

Zaul and his partner Makareta are both Bluffies but have recently bought a home in Invercargill, where Makareta practices as a lawyer. As if buying a house wasn't exciting enough, the two are expecting their first child in 2023!

In his spare time, Zaul enjoys getting on the footy field, playing union for Bluff Rugby Club, and league for the Cowboys. Zaul played all his junior rugby for Bluff, and since returning to the club to play senior, has notched the impressive milestone of 100 games.



► WANT TO JOIN THE SOUTH PORT TEAM?

ADMINISTRATOR

We're after someone with previous office administration experience - a friendly, super-organised, solutions-focused administrative professional, who enjoys working as part of a team but can also work autonomously and use initiative. The role involves a lot of variety!

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ADVISOR

As part of our long term strategy of positioning our business for the future, we have established an exciting new role in our Commercial Team, reporting to our Commercial Manager. This is a fantastic career opportunity that involves oversight of the port's commercial property portfolio.

Don't miss out on these golden opportunities - reach out to find out more! Contact Thomas Lewis:

Telephone: (03) 212 8159

Email: tlewis@southport.co.nz



► CONGRATULATIONS RAY TULL

Congratulations to Raymond Tull, Tugmaster and Pilot here at South Port, who recently completed his Class A Pilot Licence.

Ka mau te wehi - awesome work!



► BLUFF CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT

Earlier this year, South Port contracted Heron Construction Company Ltd to remove the fractured or fragmented rock in the Port entrance channel from previous dredging campaigns.

The aim was to remove any already blasted or fragmented rock that remained in the channel from previous 'capital dredging' campaigns over 40 years ago. Blasting of the channel, which started in the 1970's and finished in the late 1980's, saw some fragmented rock unable to be retrieved due to the engineering limitations of dredging machinery available at the time.

These limitations were highlighted in October, toward the end of the project, when the team at Heron Construction retrieved an old bucket that originated off the 'Murihiku' - South Port's old resident bucket dredge vessel, that was most certainly among the most powerful and up-to-date dredges in the Southern Hemisphere at the time. The 'Murihiku' was purpose-built in Scotland, in 1904, specifically for Bluff. It spent its 73-year working life in the region, before being decommissioned in 1978.

The latest project commenced on 21 August 2022 and was projected to end in late September; however, it officially ended on 14 October. There were several variables associated with a project such as this, foremost of which, was the uncertainty of the extent of the fragmented rock and therefore the timeline was subject to change.

Much to the delight of South Port, the campaign achieved a 9.2m chart datum (CD) in the harbour entrance channel.

Kia Whakaū is a project to dredge and remove seabed materials to 9.7m CD in the harbour entrance channel, which includes drilling and blasting as required, 10.7m CD in the Island Harbour berth basins, and 9.45m CD in the swinging basin. It is likely that a backhoe dredge will be engaged to continue dredging the channel, until the desired 9.7m CD target is achieved.

Owing to the success of this most recent project, the drilling and blasting activity required for project Kia Whakaū is unlikely to be required under the new consent granted. This is a very exciting development for the Port and will have the potential to significantly reduce the environmental impact of the project going forward.

South Port will now contract a suction dredge to deepen the swinging basin and berth pockets under the new resource consent, which is expected to be completed in the second half of 2023, to allow for larger cargo volumes and vessels to transit through the Port.

The majority of the dredged rock and material was relocated not far from the mouth of the Bluff Channel; however, some rock was taken and has been stored on land as it was identified that it could be processed into gravel for use in Port pavement projects.

The team at Heron Construction Company Ltd worked around the clock, and we thank the entire team for their efforts, along with the Bluff community for their support throughout this project.

BLUFF HILL MOTUPŌHUE ENVIRONMENT TRUST DONATION



In August this year, South Port partnered up with the Bluff Hill Motupōhue Environment Trust, with the aim of improving the Little Blue Penguin habitat around the region.

South Port donated \$30,000 over the next three years, which will allow the Trust team to intensify their trap networks and continue to plant native species where the penguins nest.

CONSERVATION WEEK PLANTING

Conservation week took place from 5 to 11 September, 2022. The Bluff Hill Motupōhue Environment Trust aimed to get 20,000 native plants into the ground, so, naturally, South Port wanted to get involved and help them reach their goal!

The priority was to have native plants in the 20m fringe around the Bluff township. The purpose of this is to prevent gorse from growing, and to bring native plants closer to backyards - bringing a profound change to the town of Bluff, that is only going to get better over time.

Planting events took place every day during the week, on multiple sites around Bluff. One team from South Port planned ahead - they knew they'd be busy the week of the planting, so they organised to get amongst it at the end of August.

Other South Port teams participated over four days, often braving four seasons in one day.

With the help of 18 businesses from around the region, along with dozens of individuals, the Trust smashed their 20,000 plant target - which shows a community coming together, having fun and working hard. Ka pai!



▶ SOUTH PORT COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP



GO THE EXTRA MILE



ONE TEAM



WORK SMARTER



ACT WITH INTEGRITY



SAFETY FIRST



MANAAKITANGA

Applications for a scholarship to undertake apprenticeship training, tertiary or university education are invited from eligible students and individuals who have resided in the Bluff Ward for three or more years.

Further details and application forms are available upon request from:
Charlotte Scoles

Telephone: (03) 212 6050

Email: cscoles@southport.co.nz

Applications close on Friday, 6 January 2023.

Late applications will not be considered.

▶ "TE MATUA" GETS A WOF

In October, South Port's tug "Te Matua" was lifted up on the Syncrolift for its five-yearly survey. During the survey, the tug received a hydro blast, a sand blast, and a new coat of paint.

The hull was closely inspected from stem to stern, to ensure it is in the best condition and is fit for purpose. Work also included inspecting, replacing and overhauling internal and external mechanisms and functions.



▶ TE PŪKOROKORO O MURIHIKU SOUTH PORT NZ



Those of you that can see the Port from home may have noticed that we've been updating our signage.

Our modified logo and new motto, which was incorporated in 2021, was designed to reflect Bluff's distinctive characteristics, along with South Port's aspirations.

OUR PURPOSE: *"To facilitate the best logistic solutions for the region."*

► FAREWELL TO THE "ORETI"

At the beginning of August, we farewelled the "Oreti" as she departed for her new home in Auckland.

Built in 1980 as "Corio," she relocated to Bluff from her namesake location, Corio Bay, Australia, in early 1991.

The "Oreti" came from five sister ships, was 11.38m x 4.05m x 1.64m in size, and was fitted with a Detroit Diesel running 172kW. The "Oreti" was used to tow the barge out to the spoil ground behind Tiwai to dump dredgings, for maintenance of navigation marks, and as a general work boat.

We wish the "Oreti" well in her future endeavors.



► BLUFF SCHOOL VISIT

In September, our Infrastructure and Environmental Manager, Frank O'Boyle, Project Engineer, Jason Paul, and Communications Advisor, Charlotte Scoles, visited Bluff School to talk about the dredging project in the harbour.

Many children from St Teresa's School and Bluff School thoroughly enjoyed learning about how the equipment works, with a hands-on example of why the dredging is taking place, and what it means for vessels visiting in the future.





WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

CONTACT

ISLAND HARBOUR, PO BOX 1, BLUFF 9842

+64 3 212 6050

comms@southport.co.nz

  South Port NZ

WWW.SOUTHPORT.CO.NZ