

*Algies Bay
Ratepayers & Residents
Newsletter
April 2014*



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held
on Saturday 19th April 2014**

**Venue: Betty Paxton Room, Mahurangi East Community
Centre**

**Time: 10.00 am
Guest Speaker
Penny Webster**

Refreshments will be provided at the close of the meeting

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Algies Bay Ratepayers and Residents Committee please contact Anne Murphy, Secretary 4255211 for a Nomination Form. Alternatively you may know someone who has a passion for the Bay and would enjoy being a Member of the Committee, please nominate them. Nominations may also be taken from the floor at the AGM. The Committee normally meets on the first Friday of every month except January

Subscriptions \$10.00 per household for the year 1 April 2014-31 March 2015 are now due. A subscription form is attached for your convenience.



We are pleased to announce that **Algies Bay** now has an official website at www.algiesbay.co.nz

There are 52 pages of information for **Algies Bay Residents & visitors** and it's designed to be **informative and helpful** as well as keeping you

up to date with what's happening in the bay.

Go to the **"Home page"** where you have quick links to the Auckland council & local board sites, plus all emergency & essential numbers, JP's, and check out the old aerial photos under **"A.B. History"** from 1956 when there were only about 7 houses in the bay up to the latest 2014 photo.

Under **"Recreation & Activities"** are all local clubs, beaches, regional parks, how to play Petanque, latest fishing tides and see what on at the Matakana cinema.

"Accommodation" covers local rentals, motels, camp grounds & real estate.

We have all the local markets details, Restaurants & cafes plus regional wineries listed.

The **"Community Directory"** is for churches, schools, retirement homes, plus if you need a plumber/electrician/builder or other trades people then these are under Local business and shopping.

"Residents & Ratepayers" covers the committee, membership, neighbourhood watch plus all the Bays forthcoming & past news and events and newsletters.

The **"Gallery"** is just local pictures but look at **"AB BBQ"** under gallery and you might see yourself at our annual BBQ.

This website has been set up locally at virtually no cost and there is only a small on-going annual cost that will be covered by just a few sponsors whom we are presently seeking.

We hope you will make good use of this website and we will advise of any on-going changes.

Kind regards

An initiative of the Algies Bay Residents & Ratepayers Association Committee.

Childrens' Playground - The Council has informed us that the equipment for the upgrading of the playground has been ordered and should be installed in the near future. The choice of equipment comes as a direct result of the feedback from the community and the options put forward by a number of suppliers based on the available space, budget and feedback.

Defibrillator - This has now been installed on the outside wall of the Sandspit Yacht Club. May we take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those folk who made donations and particularly Helen Moore whose late husband the defibrillator is dedicated to. **A training session on how to use the equipment will be held by a St Johns Ambulance Paramedic on Sunday 30th March at 1 PM at the yacht club beside the Algies Bay boat ramp. We encourage you to attend. All are welcome.**

Sea wall restoration - It appears that we are getting closer to work as we have been informed that all the necessary paper work has been completed. We believe the contract has been let so hopefully work will commence soon. Fortunately, the latest storm left the beach relatively unscathed except for the usual loss of sand.

Geotechnical Matters at Algies Bay

This is the first of five geotechnical articles planned for the ABRRR Newsletter. It is on **The Sand** and will be followed by one on **The Rocks**. The third will be on **The Soils** and the fourth on **what it all means for residents**. The fifth will be on **Sea Level Fall**.

1 Sand movement

From time to time new residents in the Bay are dismayed to notice that the amount of sand on the Beach is less than they remember seeing when they first visited.

They soon notice however that the sand comes and goes, -: sometimes “in” and sometimes “out”. A major storm from the NE persisting through high tide will stir it up and redeposit it about 10m beyond the low tide mark to form a gently-sloping sand bank. Dinghy owners can be heard swearing when, after getting their boat in the water, the motor started, and moving out a few boat lengths, they run aground.

The sand is brought back by mild wave action over a few weeks or months depending on “wave climate”. So it can be lost during just ONE very stormy high-tide and take months to fully return. Likewise it can stay “in” for many months¹.

In the 18 years Brenda and I have lived on the Beachfront we have seen two major cyclones with wind from the NE, - Cyclone Fergus² was followed only 10 days later by Cyclone Dreena. We thought the glass in our ranch-sliders might blow in. In the 16 years since there have been other extreme weather events including an extremely strong blow from the SE which disturbed yachts “on the hard” at Sandspit and Cyclone Wilma in January 2011 which was more notable for intensity of rainfall than wind strength. None has threatened our ranchsliders as Fergus and Dreena did though.

Students from Auckland University surveyed the profile of the sand at four positions along the Beach over a 5-month period. They found movement but their study period didn’t include major changes from “in” to “out” or vice versa. Generally the depth of sand lost and regained is less than 300mm alongside boat ramps.

The sand at Algies is the common silica sand derived from shells, and accumulations of large pieces of shell can commonly be seen near high-tide level. (The sand at Mangawhai is different as it was deposited by the Waikato River when it flowed North across the Hauraki Plains and had its mouth north of Little Barrier Island. It is therefore dominantly volcanic rather than broken-up sea shells.)

¹ In one period of 3 months about 10 years ago when we had a Rotary Exchange student who was a keen Laser sailor, there was always a step down of about 50mm from the seaward end of our boat-ramp onto rock. Since then the sand has often been at least a metre up the slope of the ramp with no step off the end.

² Commonly referred to as Cyclone Fergie. It was reported to have had wind speeds up to 150 km/hr while Dreena got up to 165 km/hr (over 100 mph.).

Storms from the NE have the longest “fetch” before arriving at the Beach and don’t occur very often. Even more seldom do they persist through a high-tide. Having two within a fortnight illustrated the statistical fact that “all random distributions include clusters”.



As yachtsmen know, many storm peaks persist for only a few hours. In order to take all the sand out at Algies they must come from the NE - **AND** occur at high-tide. Fortunately this doesn’t happen very often, but the fact that it hasn’t occurred over a period of a few years doesn’t mean it won’t ever happen. It will happen again. Tidal range (as shown on published calendars) varies from 2.7m to 3.7m.

The excellent new stone wall at the NW end of the Central Reserve includes a “bay” in which sand has accumulated and stayed for several years now. This illustrates that once sand has been taken above about the 3.2m high water spring level it will not be removed by anything short of a major storm at high-tide. See photo of waves striking the old sea wall at the Central Reserve. It will be removed sooner or later by such a storm and come back in over the weeks and months after.

The Central Reserve was formed in the late 1950’s by reclamation and by culverting of the stream beside Deerness Crescent to allow the two roads – Alexander and Mariner’s Grove – to be linked to form a crescent. Some residents remember the roads being separated by the stream. Much of the ground of the Reserve and the road through is on fill placed at that time.

North-west of the Reserve, erosion immediately above high water mark has occurred and in one place exposed an old vehicle chassis and other items. This underlines the fact that several Lots there were extended seawards by dumping fill and placing large Greywacke rocks to protect it from wave action (see later article on the geology of Kawau Bay.)

Some sand movement occurs along the beach as well as in and out. This “drift” appears to be dominantly from the SE end (Bethshan) to the NW. Certainly that is what can be seen at Omaha Beach where the breakwater introduced in the late 1970’s had a very positive effect. Nearer to our Beach the sand comes and goes at the entrance to Sandspit so that yachts with deeper keels have to wait for a tidal rise before entering or leaving there. Generally, sand on the beaches and on the sea floor is always moving one way or another.

Many ABRRA members have wanted to do something to encourage the sand to stay “in”. Sloping sea walls so they don’t reflect wave energy, and doing something about the major flows of rainwater emerging from drains leading onto the Beach have been suggested. It is possible that a bund constructed at the NW end could have the effect seen at Omaha Beach and Castor Bay. See later articles for this and other practical matters.

Patterns of sand movement observed over a few months or years may not include extreme movements. It is likely that a major storm (like Furgie and Dreena) from the NE which persists through high-tide will take out the sand now trapped in the newly-formed “bay” in the Central Reserve. It will then take a few weeks or months to return.

John Hawley