

Editon 60
MARCH 2026

NEWSLETTER

The central graphic features the words "Happy Easter" in a white, cursive script font. Above the text are two pink bunny ears with white outlines, and below the text are two pink paw prints with white outlines. The background is a scenic view of a coastline with mountains and a bay, partially obscured by a dark blue banner at the top and bottom of the page.

Happy
Easter

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- MPI report - Fishers around the country innovating to reduce blue cod release mortality
- Another yummy seafood recipe!

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Commodore	Roger Smith	rogken02@gmail.com	027 366 6195
Vice-Commodore	Richard Smedley	smedley@xtra.co.nz	021 190 3342
Immediate Past Commodore	Mike Neale	penzance@xtra.co.nz	027 945 2208
Committee	Scott Archer Libby Archer Pete Boyd Murray Chalmers Mark Peychers Amy Taylor	scottcampbellarcher@gmail.com libby.j.archer@gmail.com pete.boyd1960@gmail.com murraylchalmers@gmail.com nzpeych@gmail.com office@meccabuilt.co.nz	



Our club thrives because of volunteers—but we can't do it alone!
The committee is looking for extra hands to help with events, maintenance, and keeping our club running smoothly.

Interested? Drop us a line at secretary@tibc.org.nz or chat to a committee member next time you're at the ramp.





CAPTAIN'S LOG

Update from the Commodore

This is our first newsletter for 2026 so wishing everyone a prosperous New Year. We held our AGM on the 28th December and I would like to welcome Amy Taylor and Annie Smith onto our committee and thank them for making themselves available. The meeting was well supported by Penzance members but it was disappointing that despite receiving a couple of apologies, not a single Duncan Bay member attended. Our annual Picnic Day on the 2nd January was a great success with the weather finally cooperating giving us a beautiful day. While the numbers attending were down, those that came had a great day and our profit was up on last year. I suspect many people went out fishing that day, taking advantage of the break in the weather. A big thankyou to those that supported it and especially to all my committee members and helpers that made it happen.

This year we had 10 applications for our three annual Swimming Scholarships which the Club sponsors. The successful applicants were: Amelia Woods, Luke Turton-Mason and Isobel Robinson. They each receive a term's free Swimming tuition paid for by the Boat Club. We will report on their progress in upcoming newsletters. The applicants that missed selection are welcome to apply again later in the year for next year's scholarships.

It was pleasing to see the recent announcement of Government and Council Funding support for the reinstatement of the petrol facility at Elaine Bay which hopefully will be in place by next summer. I attended the Elaine Bay Fuel Society meeting and was surprised to learn that their membership only numbers about 50 people. This is disappointing considering how many of our Boat Club members use the facility. Apart from having the availability of fuel close at hand, Elaine Bay Fuel Society members also receive a discount through their NPD card for any purchases made at this facility. See their Press release from early January in this edition of the Newsletter.

I encourage all Boat Club members to join and support the work the Fuel Society is doing to ensure we have a local fuel supply. For information about joining contact Pauline Field: ebfsinc@gmail.com

We are presently having some maintenance work carried out on the main steps at the Penzance Wharf. Strengthening of the support beams and the instalment of a replacement boarding platform should be completed before Easter.

Upcoming events:

. Our annual Fishing Contest is scheduled for Easter Saturday, 4th April. Weigh in commences at 4pm in the Reserve next to the creek as you enter Duncan Bay. The weigh in is subject to the weather which will hopefully be kinder to us this year. See details in this newsletter.

Safe Boating,
Roger Smith, Commodore.



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TENNYSON INLET BOAT CLUB
PRESENTS

Annual Easter Fishing Competition

4pm
Weigh-in
Free BBQ
provided

CATEGORIES:

- Heaviest Overall Fish
- Heaviest Snapper - Gardiner Trophy
- Average weighted Kahawai
- Average weighted Kingfish
- Best decorated Fish by a child 6 years and under
- Best decorated fish by a child 7-12 years
- Heaviest Fish by a child under 10 years
- Heaviest Fish by a youth 11-16 years
- Team Challenge - Graham Burgess Challenge Cup
- Best Team name
- Heaviest Fish by a Pensioner - Osborne Trophy
- Heaviest Fish since last year - Roy Archer Trophy
-

4
APRIL
2026
EASTER
SATURDAY



RULES

- Each fish can only be entered in one class
- Fish must be gutted and gilled
- Entries for the "Heaviest Fish since last year" must include a photograph with the weight, date caught and verified by an independent person.
- All fish must be of legal size and MPI rules must be adhered to at all times
- Please No Blue Cod to be entered as this species is under threat
- Fish must be caught by hand lines/rods or spear gun
- If cancelled due to poor weather a notice will be placed at the Duncan Bay & Penzance Bay Ramps.

For more information, please visit our website

www.tibc.org.nz

TEAM FISHING CHALLENGE



Grab your crew of up to four people, come up with a team name, and get out on the water together.

The focus isn't on landing the biggest fish – it's about getting together, going fishing, and entering the competition.

How the points work:

- 1st place – 5 points
- 2nd place – 3 points
- 3rd place – 2 points
- Every valid entry – 1 point



Points are tallied across your team, so every entry counts. And yes – a good team name is essential!



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FACILITIES UPDATE

Strengthening work is being carried out on the main steps at Penzance Wharf



A new landing platform is to be installed at the base of the steps. Hopefully this work will be completed by Easter weekend.



One of the 5 knot buoys at the approach to Penzance has broken loose after a visiting vessel tied up to it! The Harbour Board will be contacted to reinstall this buoy, hopefully, in the near future.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Tennyson Inlet Boat Club – Penzance Bay

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER, 2025. 4.00pm. On the Reserve.

PRESENT: Patricia & Grant Borrie, Grant Reburn, Graham Reburn, Gill & Brian Walker, Mike Neale, John Heberd, Jane Nichol, George Harper Jnr, Hayden Finlayson, Beryl Archer, Tim Miller. Roger & Annie Smith,

APOLOGIES: Sue Black, Peter & Jenny Archer, Juliette Neale, Liz Barker, Pete Boyd, Libby & Scott Archer, Murray Chalmers, Neil Murdoch, Richard Smedley. Clare Ballinger.

OBITUARIES: Alan McNabb. Members stood for a moment's silence to acknowledge.

Minutes of the last AGM Meeting 28 December, 2024.

Minutes were read and moved as a true and accurate record. Moved Gill Walker, Seconded. George Harper Jnr.

MATTERS ARISING:

Clare Ballinger queried as to who was responsible for the care of the lawns on the Duncan Bay Slipway. Roger is to follow up as it was suggested by DOC that the responsibility lay with the Boat Club.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Members to consider and vote on **RESOLUTION 1** and alter the wording of Clause 25:1 in the Club Constitution **FROM;** *The Committee shall be elected at the AGM and consist of Officers of the Society and "not less than four other members."* **TO;** *The Committee shall be elected at the AGM and consist of the Officer of the Society and "up to six other members."*

Moved: Mike Neale. Seconded: Hayden Finlayson.

RESOLUTION 2. That the Annual Membership Subscription be increased to \$90 annually from 1st November, 2026, this being the start of the Clubs 2026/27 financial year.

Moved: Roger Smith, Seconded: Brian Walker.

THESE RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THOSE PRESENT AND THE 8 PROXY VOTES WHICH ARE HELD ON FILE.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Roger read his annual Commodores report as per the file. Moved: Tim Miller., Seconded: Grant Borrie.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

Roger summarized the draft financial report for year ending 31 October, 2025. It has been approved by the meeting, subject to ratification by the accountants.

Meeting approved. Moved Mike Neale. Seconded. Brian Walker.

Roger also presented a copy of the accountants review for period ended 31 October, 2024.

Meeting Approved. Moved. Beryl Archer. Seconded. George Harper Jnr.

HEALTH & SAFETY.

Roger reported that a Health & Safety updated report is available at all committee meetings.

ANNUAL DONATIONS.

Meeting decided to continue the \$10 annual donation, which is voluntary. This donation goes to the Nelson/Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust. Moved. Brian Walker. Seconded. Grant Borrie.

HONORARIUM.

Mike Neale moved that the bulk amount of \$2,250.00 be distributed according to the discretion of the committee as opposed to individual amounts of \$750 per position as in the past. Approved and Seconded. Grant Borrie.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Beryl Archer moved that the standing committee remain. Roger Smith. Commodore, Ricard Smedley .Vice Commodore, Mike Neale. Rear Commodore, Libby Archer, Annie Smith. Shared Secretary duties until a Secretary is appointed. Roger Smith. Treasurer, TBA. Newsletter Editor. Additional Committee member, Peter Boyd, Mark Peycher, Murray Chalmers.

Mike Neale moved that Amy Taylor be appointed to the committee subject to her availability. Libby to followup.

Meeting approved Annie Smith as interim secretary. Moved. Beryl Archer. Seconded. George Harper Jnr.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Meeting suggested that we do a 'shout out' at Picnic Day making it known that the Committee is struggling for positions to be filled.

Mike Neale wants it to be made known to Duncan Bay residents of their responsibilities to the Tennyson Inlet Boat Club, in so much as there was no attendance at the AGM. Very disappointing. They need to be reminded of the monies recently spent on the jetty upgrade.

Brethren are continuing to cause concern at the main beach.

A campervan has been parked at the main beach for some days and has caused some concerns as to their attitude when using the facilities.

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.50PM followed by Refreshments.

ELAINE BAY FUEL PUMPS *UPDATE*

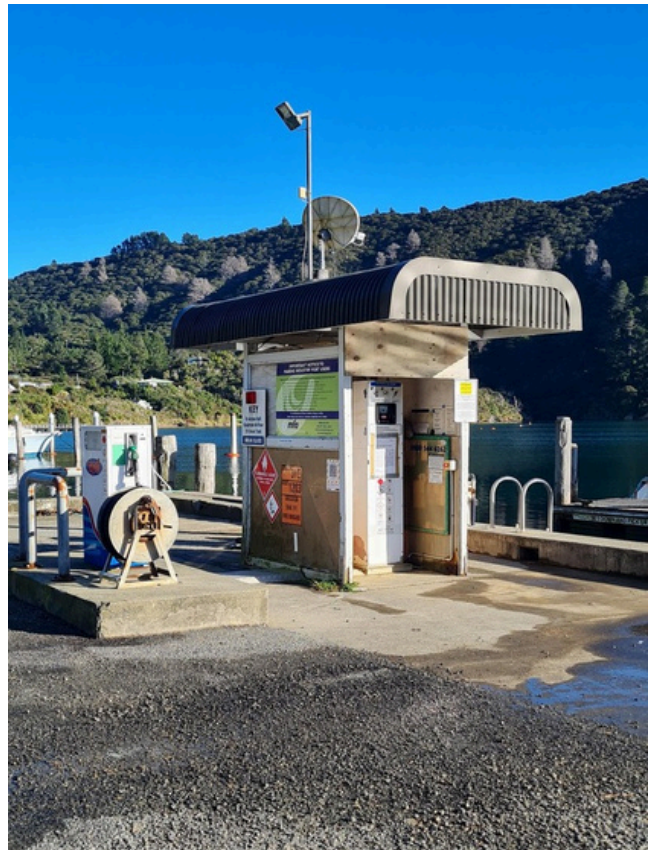
Press Release 6 January 2026

Elaine Bay Resilient Fuel Services receives Regional Infrastructure Fund grant
Elaine Bay Fuel Services (EBFS) is very pleased to announce their receipt of a grant from the Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) to help sustain the economic vitality of small remote outer Marlborough Sounds communities by re-establishing petrol supply facilities at Elaine Bay.

EBFS, a not-for-profit Incorporated Society, has for many years supplied fuel to a wide range of users in the area, however in 2024 the prior petrol tank reached its end of life and was successfully removed.

Rob Pooley said "EBFS and the communities it serves are particularly grateful for the support of Minister for Regional Development Hon Shane Jones, and Kānoa officials, in backing this important project." (The RIF is administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment's Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit).

Chairperson of EBFS Rob Pooley, said a local fuel supply is critical to the economic functionality and resilience of small and isolated Marlborough Sounds communities. In recent times, a number of fuel services locations in the Sounds had closed down, including at Elaine Bay, Okiwi Bay and French Pass. Elaine Bay is centrally located and accessible by road and sea, ideal for supporting regional industries including tourism, forestry, farming, and aquaculture as well as recreational, visitor and residential users. Beyond the grant, EBFS is required to secure additional funding from its membership and related parties. Continued support from current and new members will be important to secure the long-term viability of this new facility.



In line with its support for regional development and community resilience, Marlborough District Council (MDC) have agreed to contribute to the project with a grant of \$20,000 from the Mayoral Relief Fund. EBFS is thrilled to receive this support and extends its thanks to Mayor Nadine Taylor.

Mayor Nadine said “It’s excellent news that Elaine Bay Fuel Services (EBFS) have been successful with their application to Kānoa’s Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Council is very pleased to be able to support this project with a grant from funds set aside to aid the region’s recovery from the severe weather events, which particularly affected our Marlborough Sounds communities.”

Mayor Nadine said “The facility will provide future fuel resilience as well as support the economies of our smaller Sounds communities. It will also provide a critical service for locals and visitors, and it fits perfectly with our strategic direction for civil defense and emergency management, to build a disaster- resilient district.”

Rob Pooley said, “The new fuel facility should be fully operational, certified and compliant for the 2026/27 summer and EBFS had now engaged an experienced project manager to lead delivery of the project.”

UPDATE

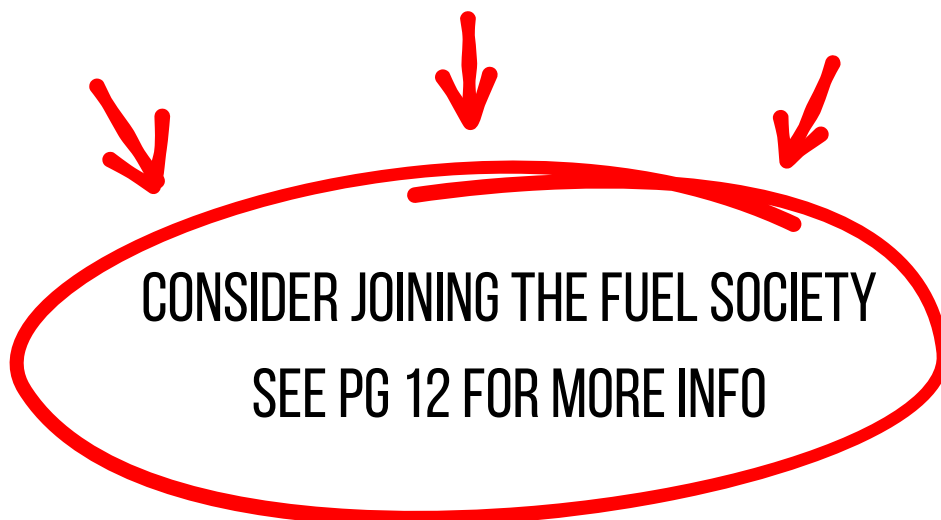
MARCH 2026

“Our Elaine Bay Fuel Society has employed a professional project manager to guide us through the process.

We are pleased to advise we have moved into broader based projects compliance phase with a multi pronged relationship building and application process underway. We continue enjoy full support at every level.

Our long term security and success will be governed by membership support and funding. We will always welcome new members and now is the time to join us committing to this service to provide resilience and confidence for our children and their children thereafter.

**Rob Pooley
EBFS President.**



**CONSIDER JOINING THE FUEL SOCIETY
SEE PG 12 FOR MORE INFO**

WHY JOIN THE ELAINE BAY FUEL SOCIETY

Joining the Elaine Bay Fuel Society isn't just about fuel, it's about keeping the outer Sounds connected, supporting essential infrastructure, and enjoying real savings every time you fill up.



REAL SAVINGS ON FUEL

As an EBFS member, you gain access to exclusive fuel discounts through our long-standing partnership with NPD.

Using your EBFS NPD card, you'll receive significant discounts on petrol and diesel at NPD Marine outlets including: Tarkohe, Nelson, French Pass, Elaine Bay, Waikawa, and Havelock. Discounts are calculated using a fairness-based pricing model linked directly to current fuel prices – so savings reflect real market conditions.

Recent examples:

- At the Elaine Bay diesel depot, members saved around 28.5 cents per litre during the week of 4 March 2026
- → resulting in a member price of \$1.705 per litre (including GST)
- When Unleaded 91 was last available, members were saving around 27 cents per litre

Because fuel prices fluctuate, discounts will vary



SAVINGS NATIONWIDE

Your EBFS NPD card also delivers around 12 cents per litre off at all other NPD outlets across New Zealand – perfect for travel beyond the Sounds.



MORE THAN FUEL - IT'S COMMUNITY

By joining EBFS, you're helping to:

- Secure long-term fuel availability in the outer Marlborough Sounds
- Ensure benefits flow back to members, not shareholders
- Support a locally run, community-focused society

READY TO JOIN?

We'd love to have you on board.

Email: EBFSInc@gmail.com

We'll send you an application form and guide you through the next steps.

Picnic Day 2026

The Tennyson Inlet Boat Club Picnic Day 2026 was another fantastic celebration of everything that makes our club and community so special. With a great turnout and plenty of enthusiasm, members and visitors alike enjoyed a classic Picnic Day filled with friendly competition, laughter, and good old-fashioned fun.

From the water to the beach, there was something for everyone – whether competing, cheering from the sidelines, or simply catching up with friends and neighbours.

thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Picnic Day 2026 such a success, including:

- Our TIBC volunteers and committee members who organised and ran the day
- Everyone who set up, packed down, cooked, marshalled races, and ran events
- Those who loaned kayaks, life jackets, equipment, and resources
- Our prize and raffle donors
- And all participants and supporters who came along and contributed to the great atmosphere

Your time, effort, and generosity are what make Picnic Day such a special and enduring club tradition.

A special thank you to Jess and Zach Staples for organising the Pirate Treasure Hunt, which was a huge hit on Picnic Day.

Photo at right:

Zach Staples and some of the junior pirates hunt for treasure.



Results 2026

Congratulations to all competitors who took part. Results for Picnic Day 2026 are as follows:



Event	Category	Placing	Winner
Running Races	Boys 4yrs & under	1st	Luka Chalmers
Running Races	Boys 4yrs & under	2nd	Ollie ?
Running Races	Boys 4yrs & under	3rd	Jimmy Norris
Running Races	Boys 5 & 6 yrs	1st	Henry Collings
Running Races	Boys 5 & 6 yrs	2nd	Elliot Li
Running Races	Boys 5 & 6 yrs	3rd	Niko Koles
Running Races	Boys 7 & 8 yrs	1st	Jacob Li
Running Races	Boys 7 & 8 yrs	2nd	William Collings
Running Races	Boys 7 & 8 yrs	3rd	Luke Turton/Zach Stevenson
Running Races	Boys 9 & 10yrs	1st	Henry Laufkotter/Jack Taylor
Running Races	Boys 9 & 10yrs	2nd	Theo Staples



RUNNING RACES



Event	Category	Placing	Winner
Running Races	Girls 4yrs & under	1st	Ellie Delaney
Running Races	Girls 4yrs & under	2nd	Layla Treleaven
Running Races	Girls 4yrs & under	3rd	Alexandra Saunders
Running Races	Girls 5 & 6 yrs	1st	Rosie Bryson
Running Races	Girls 5 & 6 yrs	2nd	Claude White
Running Races	Girls 5 & 6 yrs	3rd	Florence Porter
Running Races	Girls 7 & 8 yrs	1st	Hazel Porter
Running Races	Girls 7 & 8 yrs	2nd	Claude White
Running Races	Girls 9 & 10yrs	1st	Keira Fenton
Running Races	Girls 9 & 10yrs	2nd	Lara Fryer
Running Races	Girls 9 & 10yrs	3rd	Lucy Bryson
Running Races	Mixed 10 - 12 yrs	1st	Esther Taylor
Running Races	Mixed 10 - 12 yrs	2nd	Escher Laufkotter
Running Races	Mixed 10 - 12 yrs	3rd	Willow Parkinson



Cool off, line up, repeat - waterslide fun at Picnic Day 2026.



KAYAK & SWIMMING RACES



Event	Category	Placing	Winner
Kayak Races	10 years & under (MG Neal Trophy)	1st	Henry Laufkotter
Kayak Races	10 years & under (MG Neal Trophy)	2nd	William Collings
Kayak Races	11 - 15 years (Nalder Sheild)	1st	James Laufkotter
Kayak Races	11 - 15 years (Nalder Sheild)	2nd	Hannah Kole
Kayak Races	11 - 15 years (Nalder Sheild)	3rd	Escher Laufkotter
Kayak Races	16+ years (SNM Cup)	1st	Tim Laufkotter
Kayak Races	16+ years (SNM Cup)	2nd	Zach Staples
Kayak Races	16+ years (SNM Cup)	3rd	Joel Porter
Swimming Races	Boys 11 & 12 yrs	1st	Escher Laufkotter
Swimming Races	Boys 11 & 12 yrs	2nd	James Laufkotter
Swimming Races	Girls 13 & 14 years	1st	Naomi Porter
Swimming Races	Girls 13 & 14 years	2nd	Amelie Laufkotter
Swimming Races	Open 15years & over (Baker Cup)	1st	Dan Smith
Swimming Races	Open (15years & over)	2nd	Hannah Kole
Swimming Races	Open (15years & over)	3rd	Joel Porter





Left:
Felix Laufkotter and
Hannah Kole.
Ironperson Winners
(Betty Archer Memorial
Cup)



Right:
Dan Smith
Open Swimming Race
Winner (Baker Cup)

Below:
Water Safety - Dion Yandle



Left:
Home baking in the shop

Right:
Egg throwing Winners
Bruce Prendergast & Tristin Palmer

Below:
Planking coordination in action!



THANKS TO SERENE NEWCOMBE FOR ALL THE PHOTOS

THANK
YOU!



3 LEGGED & OTHER LAND RACES



Event	Category	Placing	Winner
3 legged Races	Mixed 9 & 10 yrs	1st	Henry Laufkotter
3 legged Races	Mixed 9 & 10 yrs	1st	Emily Walker
3 legged Races	Mixed 9 & 10 yrs	2nd	Layla Treleaven 4yrs & Mum
3 legged Races	Mixed 9 & 10 yrs	3rd	Lucy Bryson
3 legged Races	Mixed 9 & 10 yrs	3rd	Chloe Delaney
3 legged Races	Mixed 11 & 12 yrs	1st	Amelie Laufkotter
3 legged Races	Mixed 11 & 12 yrs	1st	Escher Laufkotter
3 legged Races	Mixed 11 & 12 yrs	2nd	Holly Parkinson
3 legged Races	Mixed 11 & 12 yrs	2nd	Willow Parkinson
3 legged Races	Mixed 11 & 12 yrs	3rd	Emily Walker
3 legged Races	Mixed 11 & 12 yrs	3rd	James Laufkotter
3 legged Races	Mums' & Dads'	1st	Rebekah Laufkotter
3 legged Races	Mums' & Dads'	1st	Cushla Laufkotter
Balloon Squeeze	Mixed 10 yrs & over	1st	Esther Taylor/Jessica Bell
Balloon Squeeze	Open	1st pair	Tim Laufkotter/Riley Walker
Planking Race	Teams Open	1st	Escher, Felix & Tim Laufkotter, Riley Walker

Planking Race Winners



A planking fast family - Escher, Tim & Felix Laufkotter with Riley Walker
(Names might not be in correct order!)

Tug-o-War Mens Winning Team

WELL DONE "TUNA BAY TUGGERS"



Dion Yandle, Felix Laufkotter, Nigel Parkinson, Tim Laufkotter, Matthew White, Zach Staples

HELP US KEEP THESE FACILITIES

Annual
membership
subscription

\$85

The launching ramps, wharves and swimming pontoons in Tennyson Inlet are owned and maintained by the Tennyson Inlet Boat Club. The current structures are ageing and will (in future) need replacing. They could also suffer major damage from a weather event. We are unable to insure the structures as the cost of this is over our annual income. **We need to ensure the club has sufficient funds to be able to replace these.** Full replacement of one of the wharves could cost over \$500k - we are a long way from having these funds and rely on donations and membership subscriptions for our only income. If you use these facilities regularly please consider joining as a member. If you are already a member - please help us spread the word!



Contact us: 021 450205
secretary@tibc.org.nz

www.tibc.org.nz/donations-for-facilities

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2026



SWIMMING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Isobel is the grand daughter of members, Craig & Sue Davies, Duncan Bay.

Isobel has just turned 5 in December and is very excited to start school in 2026. She lights up a room with her big smile and funny jokes and huge imagination. Isobel is lucky enough to have grandparents who have a bach in Duncan Bay and it is her favourite place to go and visit, especially down at the picnic area, or as she calls it "Magic Beach".



Luke is the grandson of members Richard Burrige and Gail Turton

Luke is a big fan of the outdoors. He will be 8yrs old in January 2026, and currently attends Ararira Springs Primary School in Lincoln.

Luke enjoys kayaking, skipping stones at rivers/lakes, bike rides and board games. He has been a regular visitor to Duncan Bay, including a night at Matai Bay Hut at around 8 months old, and more recently camping at Harvey Bay.

Our 3rd recipient for 2026 is Amelia, Amelia is the grand daughter of member Caro Bartlett and we will hopefully have an update on Amelia in our next edition.

**COMING
SOON**

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2025	Saturday 4 th April	Easter Fishing Competition Weigh-in 4pm Duncan Bay Reserve (by the river)
December 2026	AGM date to be advised Swimming Scholarship applications close 31/12/2026	AGM - Penzance Swimming scholarship applications online - Click here to apply.
January 2027	1 st Jan - Picnic Day set up 4pm (all help welcomed) Annual Picnic Day Saturday 2nd January 2027	Betty Archer Reserve Penzance

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE



[HTTPS://WWW.TIBC.ORG.NZ/](https://www.tibc.org.nz/)



Fishers around the country innovating to reduce blue cod release mortality

Release mortality is a major issue for blue cod in the Marlborough Sounds caused by damage from inappropriate hooks, poor handling of fish, and predation by seabirds such as shags. To support recent measures to reduce fishing pressure on blue cod (an extended closed season and further measures being considered), it is key that we all do our part to fish sustainably and responsibly. This minimises disruption of blue cod during closures and ensures the best chances of survival for any released fish.

We've heard a clear and simple message from the local community on this issue: the best way to avoid release mortality for blue cod is to not catch them in the first place. Here are some tips to achieve this:

- Be intentional in your fishing. When the blue cod season is closed, target other species selectively using the appropriate gear, fishing in different areas, and staying away from rocky reef blue cod habitat where possible. Don't just anchor up on your local point like it's business as usual.
- Use the right hook. Large (6/0+) circle or recurve hooks avoid gut hooking fish and less regularly catch smaller blue cod which you need to return.
- Move on when you are catching undersize blue cod or any blue cod during closures. Some areas serve as juvenile nursery grounds, and every time you bring up a small cod to release, it reinforces the feeding behaviour of shags.

It is sometimes inevitable that you will catch a blue cod during closures, or small blue cod throughout the year. You will need to safely release these to help ensure the fishery's sustainability.

We've worked with some proactive fishers around the country to profile what they are doing to address release mortality in their local fisheries. Have a read ahead of this summer for some inspiration and new ideas to minimise your impact when out on the water.

This article covers some, but not all, of the available techniques to reduce release mortality for blue cod. If you have other ideas, content, or suggestions, we'd love to hear these at info@mpi.govt.nz.

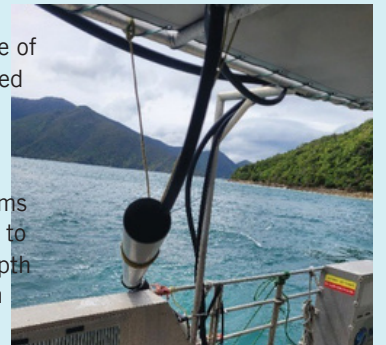
RV Ikatere, Earth Sciences New Zealand

We conduct ongoing pottings surveys of blue cod across the Marlborough Sounds for Fisheries New Zealand, to inform management and ensure a sustainable fishery. The survey includes catching, measuring, and releasing blue cod in closed areas like Long Island Marine Reserve.

Shag predation can be a real issue in the Sounds, so to mitigate this, we use a release pipe on our research vessel.

The pipe is attached to the side of the boat with the end submerged about 1.5 metres below the surface. We run a deck hose through the pipe so it is like a hydro slide for blue cod. It seems to work well, allowing blue cod to be returned to a reasonable depth without attracting the attention of shags.

Anyone who wants to give a release pipe a go can do so as simply as finding a spare piece of downpipe (1 metre or longer) and taking this onboard on your next fishing trip.



Alan Key & Larnce Wichman, Fish Mainland Chy Doherty, Aqua Guardian, Marlborough

We've been involved in Fish Mainland, a South Island based recreational fishing advocacy organisation, since its inception. We live in Marlborough and Southland, where blue cod is a popular species for local fishers.

The dingle dangle was invented overseas to stop bait being eaten by small fish, but instead by larger fish the angler wants to catch and keep. This is a method that will help you stop catching the small blue cod, make bait last longer, and avoid having to throw back small blue cod like a dinner bell to the shags.

If you want to give this a go, there are various rigs available on online tackle stores in New Zealand, or you can have a go at creating one yourself following online tutorials. Just Google dingle dangle and learn all about them. Save the small blue cod for another day. Get in touch with Fish Mainland at info@fishmainland.nz to learn more.

Scott Tindale, Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust, Auckland

My wife Sue and I set up the Tindale Marine Research Charitable Trust in 2018, to promote environmental education, conservation and research. One of our key initiatives is the recreational inshore fish tagging programme, which earned the 2023 Supreme Seafood Sustainability Award.



Hearing concerns about seabird predation of blue cod, my mind turned to the release weight as a solution. Used widely overseas and increasingly in New Zealand to return fish affected by barotrauma (like snapper), I've also used these rigs when fishing in Kapiti and Otago to easily get cod down to the bottom faster than predator like seabirds, barracouta, and sharks.

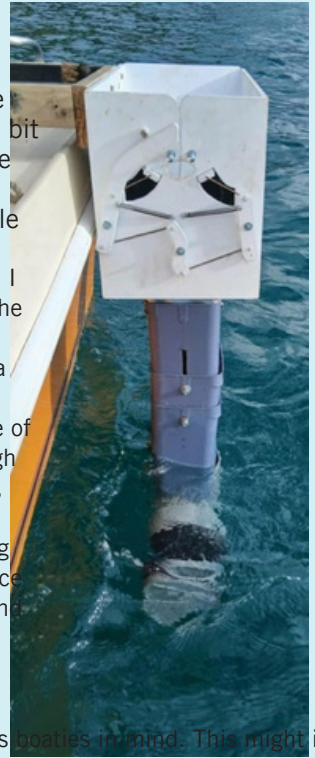
The concept is simple, being a wire clip or barbless hook and a weight below rigged on a spare rod or handline. After removing the hook from a fish's lip, insert the wire clip through the same hole then release the fish overboard. At the seafloor or appropriate depth, simply jerk the rod to slide the clip out and let the fish swim away.

To give this a go, you can make a clip at home with a bit of wire or modifying a stainless steel blanket safety pin or a shark clip. There are instructional videos online, or buy premade rigs you can buy online (e.g. Seaqualizers or Fishsavers). Get in touch at tindaleresearch@xtra.co.nz if you want to learn more.

I'm based in the Sounds, where the blue cod fishery faces high mortality rates from seabird predation and handling. To tackle this, I took it upon myself to do a bit of inventing and come up with the Aqua Guardian, a first of its kind eco-friendly solution for sustainable fishing.

When I want to release a caught fish, I put it in the box at the top and pull the fish through the slot to measure the fish. The fish's nose passes through a small gap and the hook can then be reversed out by flicking it against one of the bolts. The fish then moves through trapdoors into a submerged chamber, safe from birds and able to recover before swimming off. From my testing so far, the design looks to really reduce damage from handling, measuring, and shag predation.

We've developed a first prototype (pictured) and are now refining it specifically with blue cod and Sounds boats in mind. This might include a pivot stand so you can tilt it out of the water when moving or in storage, as well as multiple sizes for different boats. If you want to learn more, get in touch at futurefishingltd@gmail.com.



Deb & Darron Broderick, My Cod Piece, Tasman

We live and fish in the top of the South, where one of the biggest challenges for everyday fishers is making sure their blue cod catch meets size limits without damaging undersize fish in the process. Every year, thousands of undersized fish are caught and returned, and mishandling can easily occur due to the difficulties of accurately measuring a wriggling blue cod on a moving boat. We wanted to solve this, so we've designed a measuring device – My Cod Piece – based on a tool we've successfully used on our own boats for many years. The device slots onto your line and allows you to quickly measure and dehook the blue cod with minimal handling. This minimises time out of the water and eliminates the risk of damage from over-handling, hot or dry surfaces, or fish thrashing around on the deck of the boat. By using this device we hope more people will confidently and safely release undersized fish quicker and with less harm, helping protect an important fishery.

Right now, we're refining the prototype and testing it with recreational and charter fishers to ensure it holds up in real-world conditions. Feedback so far has been very positive. If you would like to learn more, feel free to get in touch with us at mycodpiece@gmail.com.



For more information visit fisheries.govt.nz/Marlborough-blue-cod

CREAMY GARLIC MUSSELS RECIPE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 onions, finely sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup vegetable stock*
- 2kg mussels, cleaned and beards removed
- 1 cup cream
- Zest of one lemon

To serve

- Juice of 1 lemon
- Fresh parsley
- Crusty bread*
- Extra lemon wedges



METHOD

1. In the base of a large stock pot, gently heat the olive oil. Add the onions and sauté for a few minutes until soft.
2. Add the garlic and cook for a few minutes. Pour in the white wine and vegetable stock and bring to a simmer.
3. Add the mussels to the pot and place the lid on top. Cook for 5-10 minutes until the mussels have all opened (discard any unopened mussels).
4. Add the cream and lemon zest, stir to coat the mussels in the sauce.
5. Transfer to a serving dish. Squeeze over the lemon juice, scatter over the parsley.
6. Serve immediately with warm crusty bread and more lemon wedges on the side.

Recipe sourced from VJ Cooks
[Click here to visit the website](#)





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