

Sunday 5th February 2023

To whom it may concern,

The Tamaha Sea Scouts in Mapua is a youth organisation that currently provides opportunities for young people between 5-14, to learn skills and develop their personal character through a variety of water and land-based activities.. offers a supportive and safe environment for our local youth to challenge themselves and grow through adventure, leadership, teamwork, confidence, and self-esteem. The Tamaha Sea Scouts offers a fun environment for young people to grow, learn, and make new friends along with a strong emphasis on maritime skills, environmental awareness, and community service. Tamaha Sea Scouts provides numerous positive benefits to the individuals involved, as Tamaha Sea Scouts often partner with local organisations and businesses, providing opportunities for community service and giving back to the region.

Tamaha Sea Scout Group has been in operation in the Mapua community for over 90 years. Tamaha was initially set up as a Land Scout Group, however 35 years ago with the addition of the Mapua Boat Ramp the Group took advantage of being located in the seaside village of Mapua and converted to a Sea Scouts Group. We currently hold 2 leases on locations in Mapua: 'The Den' where our Scout Hall with kitchen and bathroom facilities are located at the northern end of the Mapua Domain, and 'The Ship' (Boat Storage Shed) located on the Mapua Wharf to store our regular 'on water' session boats, with the remaining boats stored on multiple private properties across the region by the generous local community.

The 'On Water' season for the Mapua Sea Scout Group runs from October-April roughly in line with the 34 weeks of daylight savings. During this time the 10–14-year-old Scouts move to be based from 'The Ship' and spend their weekly session on the water sailing and rowing the 5.2m fibreglass and wooden clinker style Scout Cutters (each cutter accompanied by a powered safety support boat manned by 2 adults each), and the 3.5m plywood Sunburst sailing dinghy's.

Since 2019 the Scouts National Sailing Programme has expanded to include a new class of sailing dinghy called RS Fever which can be sailed with a mainsail, a jib and a asymmetric/symmetric spinnaker. The 3.6m RS Feva hulls are constructed from polyethylene making them an ideal lightweight low maintenance watercraft that can be easily manoeuvred on a beach trolley. Tamaha is yet to purchase this fast-growing class of sailing dinghy due to their current storage constraints.

Our group size is currently at 84 Adult and Youth members with the majority living within Mapua/Ruby Bay (East of the Coastal Highway/Te Mamaku Drive) attending Mapua, Tasman and Mahana schools or college. The remaining quarter our members live slightly further out and attend: Appleby, Dovedale, Lower Moutere, Motueka South, St Peters Chanel, Parklands Brooklyn and Riuwaka schools.

The National Scouts Programme also offers a Venturer Section for Youth aged 14-18 which hasn't operated in Mapua since 2019 although we are planning to start a small trial unit up again during the next 'on water season' as our current yr9 and 10 students will age out of Scouts by the start of 2024.

The Tamaha Sea Scout Group also has a significant Youth waitlist. As of the start of this week we have 47 potential youth aged 5-12 who have applied since the start of 2022 via the National Scouts Website to join the Tamaha Sea Scout Group, however they are yet to get in as our sessions are already at capacity given the constraints of both premises we currently occupy.

The disadvantages of the current sites located at Mapua Wharf (Ship) and the Mapua Domain (Den) are:

1. PHYSICAL SPACE CONSTRAINTS:

- Over time the Sea Scouts space inside 'The Ship' complex has been reduced to approx. 60m² due to the expansion of the Boat Club/Maritime Museum. As a result, we can only store and utilise in this space two Scout 5.2m 1 tonne cutters and the associated 2 3.5m powered safety support boats and a Sunburst all on road trailers. This impacts the number of Scouts we can take during our on water sessions. A third Scout Cutter is in our ownership but due to our storage space cannot be stored within the Ship, along with the Kayaks and Kayak/Opti Trailer, Optimists and a Sunburst on a road trailer which are all located on various properties, some deteriorating due to the majority being stored in driveways.
- Outside 'The Ship' at Mapua Wharf has been a reduction in the area to manoeuvre these large Scout Cutters on vehicle trailers from the boat storage to the area in front of the Jellyfish Restaurant where we rig them up and connect to a towing vehicle to launch them off the boat ramp. The reduction in usable space has been due to the beautification of the area from two separate upgrades: The Ngaio Park upgrade in 2021 added garden areas around our rigging area and down to the water; and the earlier upgrade to decking including pot plants at the Jellyfish Restaurant have reduced the clearance to 3.2m making the process of taking the 5 boats stored in 'The Ship' in and out of the every session area a time consuming work of art for the leaders and youth involved cutting into our 2 hour session time.
- 'The Den' based at Mapua Domain is 1/3rd the size of most Scout Hall's and lacks any type of storage space for our land or water equipment. My understanding is that this current building was an old Venturer Unit Building from Enner Glynn which was relocated to the site approximately 12 years ago when Tamaha Sea Scouts moved out of their much larger former location behind Mapua School in what is now the Warren Place Industrial Zone. Furthermore, in recent times we have had significant costs associated with the services (water/power/waste water) at the Mapua Domain, and have also been broken into given its 'down the alley' location.

2. SAFETY

- The pedestrianised Mapua Wharf enjoys local and out of town visitors who arrive by food or bike to take advantage of a wharf jump, wharf fishing, or to enjoy some retail therapy, drinks, and a meal at one of the six licensed premises. Using towing vehicles to launch the boats within the confines of the Mapua Wharf is a safety hazard for the visitors Wharf currently. Particularly as when Tamaha are in their 'On Water' Season this is also a time that Mapua is bustling with local young families, teenagers, public and tourists during our water sessions which can start from 4 till 8pm on a Monday-Wednesday weeknight and the odd time around slack water on other nights or the weekend for training and special events.
- Unsupervised visiting Children playing around the water/Ngaio Park present an additional hazard within the confines of this area which we have witnessed this on multiple occasions. While parents are socialising and enjoying a drink or meal at one of the restaurants or bars beer gardens, the children are running between Ngaio Park/wharf and the boat ramp launching area unaware of the reversing towing vehicles in the area.

- Rigging the boats in such a congested area also provides a potential hazard to the public trying to access wharf. Especially during transporting and raising of the cutters mast given the size at over 5m in length.
- To maximise the 60m2 floor space for watercraft storage at 'The Ship' floor space is a premium and as a result we scramble over at least 2 boats to reach the ladder to climb to access our life jackets and kayaking/rafting equipment when the Cubs section are running their version of 'On Water' sessions. The alternative is to pull at least 4 boats out first into the rigging forecourt every time we want to access the paddles and safety equipment safely, which would create clutter for the public on the wharf and take 30 minutes to rearrange of our session time).
- The public also can distract the police vetted adult volunteers and youth while rigging and derigging/cleaning up. Safeguarding our youth is at the core of Scouts, and although there is an alcohol ban at the Mapua Wharf, the location is not optimal for our impressionable youth when the occasional 'merry' patron approaches at the end of session when the area is usually quieter as dusk approaches.
- Similarly, the hazards for our youth at 'The Den' at the Mapua Domain is the uneven ground around 'The Den' that needs to have the drainage fixed or be planted out in flax to absorb the surface flooding, the safety due to the lack of lighting on the driveway from Aranui Road to the bowling club, and the potholes on the unsealed driveway.

The proposed benefits of the new community facility and boat ramp located at Waterfront Park will be a game changer for the Tamaha Sea Scout Group. The usage of cars for launching boats will no longer be required within Mapua Wharf thus eliminating the hazard and ensuring the space is primarily pedestrian.

Tamaha Sea Scouts will be able to store all its watercraft along with land and water equipment in one location along with having space for our youth to also make the most of the Winter months indoors session with a decent sized indoor 'hall space' for our Keas, Cubs and Scouts allowing our Scouts the physical space and ease of access to their equipment all in one spacious facility. The Group can then grow by increasing the number of youth they can have on session times, plus the increased interest by being able to utilise the different types of boats available. This will have a knock on effect as having a modern spacious facility with storage will keep our older Youth in the Group for longer, where they can continue to develop being responsible and engaged young citizens who are invested in the well-being of our local community.

A new community facility being a new boat ramp and community building outside of the existing Mapua Wharf Area in our local community will have a wider positive impact on the local growing community and wider Tasman region by maintaining the connection between the land and the sea for everyone. Grossi Point powerboat trailer traffic can then be diverted to a purpose-built boat ramp and boat trailer parking on the former FCC sites eliminating road trailer traffic in the southern end of Tahi Street and allowing Grossi Point to be transformed to a unique reserve and another attraction for locals and day visitors.

Yours sincerely,

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