

This submission is on behalf of the Little Akaloa Boating Club in support of the Christchurch City Council funding the upgrading of the wharf in the bay at Little Akaloa.

Little Akaloa is a very picturesque north facing valley with hills rising to the east & the west with the wharf approximately half way along the west side.

It is a conventional tee wharf originally drawn up for construction in 1891 though it has been subject to a number of ad hoc & unsatisfactory additions or repairs over the years.

The wharf is the hub of many activities in the district being the last on the eastern side of Banks Peninsula so consequently is used by many boaties all year round but especially over the Christmas - New Year holiday period & other public holidays. There is a concrete boat launching ramp, which was installed by voluntary local labour & donations, at the head of the bay which is very popular but can only be used at high tide for entering the boat into the sea. Access on & off boats other than at high tide can only be from the steps at the wharf. Local & visitors, young & old use the wharf for fishing & general recreation. If there was an emergency around the eastern bays of Banks Peninsula, & there have been a number over the years, it is essential that there is a safe wharf that can be used in all conditions especially in high winds & with a vicious sea running. This is definitely not the case with the wharf in its present rundown condition. One only has to ask the local identity Robin Waghorn, who was recently awarded the Q S M for the large number of successful rescues he has participated in from the bay. There is a very pleasant walk out to the wharf & it is the best viewing spot for looking back up the bay & also out to sea.

Recently a mussel farm has been established in the nearby Menzies Bay & the harvesting of the mussel crop has just commenced. The wharf is an essential link to this industry.

Currently the wharf is rather unsightly & in a very bad state of disrepair. The decking & stringers are in reasonable condition as these were replaced by a local working bee in 1998. However most of the piles need replacing urgently as it could sustain major damage from either storm events or from large fishing or recreational boats mooring alongside.

The Little Akaloa Boating Club has very little finance but our members could be available to provide consultations & advice as they have fished & lived in the area for many years plus they may be able to give voluntary labour assistance.

Banks Peninsula including Little Akaloa is being set up to be the maritime playground & tourist mecca for Christchurch & further afield so it is essential that amenities are maintained in a satisfactory condition especially as the wharf is on the scenic route & visited by day tourists from all over New Zealand & the world.

Over the years the Little Akaloa Boating Club has had many discussions & correspondence with the staff of the former Banks Peninsula District Council & since the merger very helpful communications with our elected local member Mr Bob Parker & the staff of the Christchurch City Council. I quote from an article that appeared in front page of The Christchurch Star on the 28th March 2007 where Cr Parker said “ that around the peninsula many launching facilities were not adequate, especially at low tide & peak seasonal use. In the coming year the Christchurch City Council was spending on harbour structures such as Akaroa & Little Akaloa.”

The members of the Little Akaloa Boating Club & the many outside users of the wharf await a speedy resolution to the decision to upgrade the very neglected wharf & look forward to many many happy & successful excursions from the restructured facility.

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