

## Larnce Wichman

Welcome everyone, good morning. Thank you for taking the time this winter's morning to come together for the future of our marine environment.

The sole objective of the Trustees is to help deepen the dialogue and speed us toward effective action.

We have moved to become a bit more pushy in putting forward specific proposals.

We heard at the last Forum that you liked the concept of the Marine Park and wanted more details.

To respond we asked Peter to draft up some ideas that he thought could work. That has been sent to you as a discussion document.

To broaden the dialogue we created a simple set of questions and an on-line survey. So far that has more than 130 responses and we are hoping for more over the next month. Peter will give you some details and we will make a full report of the results in August. What is most heartening to me is the depth of thinking people are putting into these issues, and the heartfelt care for the marine environment. To be sure, there are those that want to stay in their corner concerned only that their own interests are attended to. But they are a minority. Most want the place better cared for and want action as soon as possible.

We cannot do this by ourselves. We need your input today and over coming months to create enduring solutions. The Trust is open to new membership and we have been having in-depth conversations with some people. As usual, good people are busy people and we have yet to secure new members.

We are hearing a new tone in responses from the Government and the support of the Council remains solid. Doors are beginning to open.

Since the last Forum we have been busy with working groups on marine farming, fisheries, iwi consultation, forestry, and with scientists. In all these Forums, our stance has been the same. Our community needs to be heard and needs to be there in making decision about the future of its marine environment.

We want today to be more about working together on solutions than lecturing you. We do need to set out what we have proposed and what we have learned. But from there, the floor is yours.