

# REPORT

**TO:** GB Community Board  
**FROM:** The Chairperson  
**REFERENCE:** E855  
**DATE:** 4 April 2005  
**SUBJECT:** April Report to the Golden Bay Community Board

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Activities, meetings and events attended during the month included the following:

## **Coal Barging and Transshipment Proposal**

Together with others from our community, I met with Peter Dunlop, a director of Sea Tow, and Bill Armstrong, an Environmental Resource Management Consultant, who out-lined their proposal to barge coal from the West Coast and transship it to export vessels at a Golden Bay anchorage. Five barges with a 10,000 tonne capacity would shuttle coal to be loaded onto ships with a 40-50,000 tonne capacity with an anticipated 2.5million tonnes per annum.

There are many environmental factors to be taken into account for such a proposal to be considered, and a full Environmental Impact Assessment must be undertaken as a starting point; (contaminated ballast water risk, coal/oil/refuse spillage, noise, visual intrusion, lights etc).

When one sees the proposed transshipment area marked as a map overlaid with present and proposed aquaculture areas, it is apparent that a large part of the Bay outside designations such as the Farewell Spit Nature Reserve, Separation Point Fisheries Management Area etc, could become heavily industrialised.

Is this what we want for Golden Bay? Should coal exports to countries with low environmental standards be encouraged? Is this another chance to think global, act local?

## **Community Board Conference**

Held in Dunedin from 3-6 March, this proved to be most useful in sharing knowledge and networking with representatives of other Boards. A separate report has been prepared and is attached.

### **Sea Week Public Meeting 10 March**

I attended a very interesting power point presentation by Dr Tracey Osborne, a Marine Biologist, who spoke about the present marine issues for Golden Bay to consider. I would recommend that authorities such as TDC and DOC invite Dr Osborne to repeat this presentation for their benefit and information.

### **Golden Bay Tour of Reserves 11 March**

The Board undertook a tour of reserves and other related issues from Wainui Bay to Pakawau. It was very helpful for all board members and key staff to see and discuss issues together. A further tour will be programmed to visit engineering infrastructure.

### **Library Presentation 16 March**

I attended a presentation of two reference books to the Takaka Library in memory of Esme Wright. These books were purchased by Golden Bay Mohua Tecorians in memory of Esme who had been a long-standing member.

### **Physical Activity Plan Meeting 17 March**

I attended a meeting facilitated by Mike Tasman-Jones (TDC project co-ordinator), and David Allen (Physical Activity Consultant), who outlined Nelson/Tasman proposals to develop a physical activity plan for the region. Physical activity is defined as 'movement required on a daily basis to sustain health. Physical opportunities include sport, active recreation, physical education, fitness activities, active transport and play.'

### **American Visitors 10 March**

Together with Crs Riley and Borlase, I met with eight young people who are part of a group undertaking worldwide academic course studies into the effects of 'globalisation' organised by Boston University. We outlined the NZ and Tasman District local governance structure - discussed questions posed by the visitors including strategic planning, buying and selling of property, protection of natural values, subdivision, outside influences such as foreign purchasers, infrastructure, Maori claims, community representative role and responsibilities, land use and geology. An interesting and stimulating morning. We confirmed that property taxes are a big issue for lower income earners in the US with some owners being forced to sell.

### **Golden Bay Marine Issues**

I met with Dr Tracey Osborne regarding the proposed Community Board/Environment Centre Marine Issues Meeting. We identified the various

stakeholders who need to be involved in considering the various aspects. It is felt that development of a community initiated Fisheries Management Plan for the Golden Bay Marine area would be to the benefit of the Bay. NIWA experts will also be invited to attend and the date decided will be determined on their availability.

### **Kindergarten Update Meeting 23 March**

I chaired a public meeting for the Kindergarten Establishment Group in the Takaka Primary School Hall. The meeting was told that a final decision on the 2004 application for funding a Golden Bay Kindergarten was pending. In the meantime the Ministry of Education is running its own postal survey. If last years' application should be unsuccessful the committee will submit a new application for the coming year. Various speakers reiterated the need and their support for the Kindergarten. Too many children are enrolling at school with very poor cognitive skills such as not recognising letters of the alphabet and poor motor skills such as those used in holding a pencil.

### **Meeting with Hon Annette King Minister of Health**

West Coast/Tasman MP, Damien O'Connor, accompanied the Minister on a flying visit to Golden Bay where various questions on issues were raised and discussed.

The meeting was told:

- There is Government support for an integrated GB Health Service provided there is a clear vision and the Community is working with the PHO. Dr. Primrose is a key contact person knowledgeable about Rural Health issues.
- A plea was made for more support for the Public Health Nursing Service.
- The Joan Whiting Rest Home was assured that there is a continuing need for long term residential care. JW needs to sign their new contract in order to receive the 3% offered increase.
- The meeting was informed that there is an \$8M Rural Adjuster paid to NMDHB using a population-based formula. It is vital that Golden Bay receives an equitable share of this.
- It was reported that GB Rural Mental Health Services are funded at a lesser rate than their Nelson equivalent.
- Te Whare Mahana could provide more services but more money for more beds is needed. The Mental Health Directorate needs to be involved.

- Minister very supportive of the Mobile Surgical Services bus which is seen as a boon for places like Golden Bay. Innovative Health Boards making good use of this. The \$12,000 needed for staff, laundry etc should be funded by NMDHB.
- The NMDHB needs to meet in Golden Bay to see issues at first hand.
- Recruitment for Rural Dental practices is also proving difficult.

### **Keep Golden Bay Beautiful**

Committee members met to inspect the area around the new Collingwood water reservoir. It was resolved that the area around the tank be left to regenerate naturally - rushes, Kanuka/Manuka are already growing; very little gorse. However the roadside below the tank does have gorse growth (perhaps from seeds in the roading metal) and this area would benefit from gorse control and planting; KGBB will suggest this to the local school and offer some plants.

### **Fresh FM Radio Interviews**

These were recorded on 9 and 16 March. The first covered Golden Bay issues including the need for strategic planning and discussing the coal barge proposal. The second discussed matters from our March Board meeting. Fresh FM is developing into an excellent local alternative to National Radio and many listeners apparently now flick between these two stations depending on programming/interests etc. Both have the advantage of being informative but not burdened by excessive advertisements. Fresh FM is also surveying listeners on the amalgamation question and should be able to provide feedback on the results of this.

### **Issues**

#### **RMA Accreditation**

Further to comments made during the last Board meeting and information gained from the Community Boards conference I believe that the Board should formally request the opportunity for interested members to study for accreditation as Hearing Commissioners.

Accordingly, I suggest the following recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that Board members be offered the opportunity to become accredited as Hearing Commissioners for Resource Consent applications.”

## **MSS Bus Visits**

Following the visit by Hon Annette King I wish to suggest that:

“The Golden Bay Community Board writes to the NMDHB requesting that the \$12,000 per annum needed for staff and laundry costs etc for the MSS bus visits to Golden Bay be met by them from the Rural Adjuster allocation.”

## **Marine Issues Meeting**

I wish to suggest the following recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board works with the Environment Centre and organises a meeting to discuss marine issues with stake holders with a view to developing a Golden Bay Fisheries Management Plan which would then be referred to the wider Community for consultation.”

And further:

“That funding be provided for advertising and venue hire.”

## **Pohara Footpath**

We need to ensure that the safe walkway access alongside Abel Tasman Drive by the Band rotunda remains in the LTCCP pending the re-drawing of plans and further community consultation.

A caller advised that she had been told by TDC that this footpath has been dropped from the Plan.

## **Volunteers Afternoon Tea**

We need to finalise the list of Volunteer organisations for the forthcoming afternoon tea. It is suggested that this be done informally after the conclusion of the April Board meeting.

## **Amalgamation Study**

There have been calls and comments made supporting the need for a study on amalgamation proposals before this can be properly considered. To this end, Peter Foster has put his thoughts on paper and has summarised many of the issues really well.

## **ANZAC Day**

It is understood that Council has appointed representatives for the 2005 Anzac Day Services. Board members are also usually appointed as community representatives and we need to determine which services members are attending.

## **Engineering Infrastructure Tour**

We need to set a date in conjunction with key staff for the infrastructure inspection tour.

Joe Bell