

# REPORT

**TO:** GB Community Board  
**FROM:** The Chairperson  
**REFERENCE:** E855  
**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2005  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Report

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Events, activities and meetings attended during April 2005 included:

## **15 April Fresh FM Radio Interview**

On matters discussed during 12 April Board Meeting.

## **17 April Para Para Coast Care**

Weeding of Pingau and Spinifex planted last winter. Plants growing very well. Inspected area proposed to be fenced on Para Para sandspit.

## **18 April**

Attended a public meeting to hear Celia Lashlie speak on the 'Good Man' project. An excellent and entertaining speaker, Ms Lashlie builds on her experience as a Prison Warder and Manager to develop an understanding of the need for recognisable boundaries and guidance for our young people. Her wisdom should be heard by all senior schools and other community organisations with a social responsibility.

## **20 April - Department of Conservation Public Forum**

Department update included: Tenders have closed for Totoranui Sewerage system; new toilet installed at Kahurangi Lighthouse house; Golden Bay Jetties - work on transfer document for management by a Charitable Trust for Westhaven, Collingwood, Milnthorpe and Waitapu wharves underway; Pest control - 99 Goats shot in Mt Snowden, Diamond Lakes and Kaituna areas, possum control on Goulard Downs - low numbers caught, Mt Burnett possum operation planned for June/July 2005; Great Spotted Kiwi monitoring on Goulard Downs suggests steady numbers between 1987 and 2004; Wharawharangi Hut to be temporarily closed to enable eradication of bed bugs; Budget announcement for DOC

funding increase of \$3.7m for 2005-06 year and \$6.9m for the following 3 years; work programme includes; summer weed control Takaka river bed, new board walk near Dancing Sands at Te Waikoropupu Springs; lookout at The Grove being replaced, part of track temporarily closed, Hut Warden annual debrief held (fees, bunks v platforms and lack of cooking facilities at Abel Tasman NP raised), Waingaro/Anatoki circuit track cleared, Cobb Reservoir road repaired, handrails installed on Wainui Falls track structures.

Issues raised in discussion were: Myttons Hut support group still in formation; Para Para fence posts driven for proposed pest-proof fence; Onekaka Stream Project more fencing needed; coal barging proposal - preliminary discussions have been held between Sea-tow and appropriate DOC Staff.

### **25 April Para Para Fence Working Bee**

This involved digging a trench around the perimeter of the fenced area and erecting the netting and burying the base of it. This fence is to exclude hares from eating the plantings of Pingau and to exclude hedgehogs and dogs, hopefully encouraging Dotterell nesting. Spinifex is also establishing in this area naturally.

### **26 April Community Whanau**

Patrick Steer, Fresh FM, updated the meeting on the availability of Fresh FM's free 'Community Notices' slot, the programming of interviews on particular topics and spotlighting organisations. I advised the release of the 2005/06 TDC Annual Plan. The dates for the public meeting, submission period and hearing of submissions were also advised.

Helen Dockery of Department of internal Affairs advised that COGS have been operating for 17 years and currently allocate \$12.6m annually. Nelson Bays is part of the Top of the South region. COGS is a unique partnership between Government and Communities through Distribution Committees. 'Accountability' means the committees being accountable to their community. Average local grant = \$2,500.

### **26 April Golden Bay Futures Inaugural Meeting**

Held at the Takaka Bowling Club rooms this well attended meeting discussed ways forward for community involvement in Golden Bay Planning. The meeting identified many existing groups who may be able to assist with this. It is important not to duplicate but to strengthen existing groups and draw on Community knowledge and expertise.

A unanimous resolution was passed seeking greater delegation for the Community Board especially in regard to planning.

## **27 April Sue Bradford MP Address**

An acknowledged and respected hard worker on Social Welfare matters, Ms Bradford spoke on several social issues facing communities including affordable housing, the poverty gap between rich and poor, low wages, part time work, benefit cuts, high travel costs. The Working for Families policy discriminates against others who don't qualify. Survivable benefits are needed and the minimum wage needs to be raised to \$12 per hour. More state houses are needed. There are currently 12,000 families on the waiting list. 1/3 of NZ children are still living below the poverty line. A finite date is needed to end this by. Family Benefits should be reintroduced and s59 of the Crimes Act (the right to beat children) should be repealed. Various forms of gambling, especially Pokie machines, are causing huge social problems.

A lively question and answer discussion followed the talk.

## **28 April Interview with Sonya Leusink**

Was interviewed by TDC Planner Sonya Leusink assigned to identify Golden Bay Planning needs. It was useful to be able to consider possibilities based on experience, knowledge and observations. It is great that the Golden Bay Planning review is underway and we need to all work together as a community to make this the best that it can be.

## **29 April Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Committee**

The monthly meeting discussed on-going projects and responses to a Keep NZ Beautiful questionnaire. KGGB is keen to work with Engineering Services and Collingwood Area School on planting in the vicinity of the new water reservoir. KGGB have also submitted a proposal to fence and plant the area around the Ox-bow in the Takaka River by Paynes Ford.

## **Issues**

### **Engineering matters**

Cr Borlase was to enquire as to whether Ligar Bay re-construction has been bought forward on the programme; whether there is any provision for a footpath alongside Rototai Rd to serve existing residences and the new subdivision. His findings will be tabled at the meeting.

### **Pohara footpath**

Cr Borlase has been told that any alteration to the Pohara footpath plans would require a new resource consent. It is my understanding that construction with a

lesser impact would not require a new resource consent but greater development would. As we are proposing lesser effect I have written to E and P Manager Dennis Bush-King seeking clarification.

### **Footpath Standard**

The Engineering Services minutes of 14 April seeks clarification of the Board concerns about the Collingwood and Pohara footpath proposals. I believe that these have been made clear.

However, I suggest that “the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Engineering Services requesting that safe walking spaces be provided and maintained at Collingwood and Pohara instead of the expensive fully engineered versions previously designed.

### **Waitapu Bridge Land Ownership**

Prior to the proposed Overnight Stay Policy Review we need to clarify land ownership in the vicinity of Waitapu Bridge.

I therefore suggest: “That the Golden Bay Community Board seeks an accurate determination of land ownership in the vicinity of Waitapu Bridge.”

### **Golden Bay Publicity**

Following the suggestion of the Corporate Services Manager at the April meeting I suggest that the Board holds a workshop to determine ways in which Golden Bay TDC publicity can be provided to best cost-effectiveness.

### **GBCB Submission to Annual Plan**

The Board needs to meet to consider the 2005-06 Annual Plan and make submissions on omissions and matters of support. This could be done on the same day as the publicity review.

### **Marine Issues Meeting**

I have written to the GB Environment Centre seeking a time line for the proposed public meeting. There has been some delay to ensure the availability of key NIWA Staff. The date will be advised as soon as it is set.

### **Golden Bay Wharf Trust**

Further to this item raised during the DOC Public Forum update I believe that it is very important for the interests of the wider community to be represented on this Trust. DOC has already requested that the Community Board be asked to

provide such representation on the Trust.

I must say I have real concerns about the abrogation of TDC responsibilities on these assets. TDC has spent around \$400,000 on the Mapua Wharf but has abandoned the GB Wharves even though they remain listed in the 2005-06 Annual Plan together with wharfage charges. If monies due had been collected and appropriate charges set for the respective sites there would have been an income to maintain these assets.

### **Garage Sale Suggestion**

I have received more information about the community garage sale idea suggested by Dr. Don Mead based on the Ferndale, California concept. This will be tabled on the day. Perhaps the Lions Club, in the absence of Mainstreet, could follow this idea up.

### **Obituary - John Mitchell**

Whilst compiling this report I was advised of the passing of John Mitchell. John was a tremendous community-minded person and he leaves a wonderful legacy of plantings and tracks as his memorial in Golden Bay. Some of these are at Uruwhenua, Community Gardens, Para Para, Onekaka, Collingwood and Milnthorpe. As a track guide and warden on the Heaphy and elsewhere his knowledgeable presence enhanced the experience of many. His representations for appropriate speed limits and safer roads for vulnerable users were a forerunner of BLIP'S efforts. His stoicism in the face of illness was inspirational. Sincere sympathy is extended to John's family. A mighty Totara has fallen.

Joe Bell

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