

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: GB Community Board Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 5th September 2005
SUBJECT: September 2005 Report

Meetings, activities and events attended during the month included:

1 August - Agenda setting for the 9 August Board meeting.

4 August - attended Conservation Week illustrated talk by botanist Dr. Philip Simpson the author of 'Dancing Leaves' a wonderful book on the cabbage tree. Philip provided information on various species found around the world and then spoke on New Zealand varieties, their iconic value to the landscape and the reasons for disease causing many losses. Pakawau apparently has the oldest cabbage tree in the world.

9 August - Monthly Community Board meeting Collingwood.

9 August - Attended Golden Bay Futures Trust AGM at which Claude Lewenz of Waiheke Island was guest speaker who advised of successful planning efforts being undertaken by that Community.

10 August - Attended public meeting at GB Environment Centre where Claude Lewenz elaborated on Community Planning processes.

11 August - Golden Bay Community Board and TDC Planners met with Claude Lewenz and GB Futures committee members and discussed ways of encouraging the widest possible Community engagement in Planning.

12 August - Fresh FM recorded radio programme on matters from the 9 August Board meeting.

12 August - Attended the Golden Bay reception at the Community Centre

for **Sheryl Nalder** recipient of a TDC Outstanding Community Service Award.

13 August - Attended the Zone 5 Community Boards Forum at Appleby. Representatives from Golden Bay, Motueka, Christchurch, Banks Peninsula and Greymouth Boards in attendance. Speakers included Mayor Hurley, Eugene Bowen (CEO LGNZ - who spoke on structure, initiatives and priorities of LGNZ), Susan Chamberlain (Transit NZ - projects, 10 year planning) and Beverley Wood (UNICEF - "Every Child Counts" initiative)

16 August - attended the address by Rt Hon Helen Clark at the Senior Citizen's Hall.

16 August - Chaired the Board Community Forum called to discuss the Takaka and Eastern Golden Bay Urban Study paper at the Senior Citizen's Hall.

17 August - Attended the quarterly DOC Community Forum in Takaka. DOC update items included: - 6000ha Mt Burnett possum operation carried out; Canaan ground control for rats and possums underway; Whitebait season has commenced, staff deployed; Totaranui sewerage project due to commence; decomposed whale washed ashore on West Coast, up to three Southern Right Whales seen close to shore West Coast; filtered water supply being investigated for Wharawharangi Hut and campsite; fresh transmitter fitted to female blue duck at Goulard Downs; injured Kiwi transferred to Willowbank Wildlife Centre; new internet booking system for Heaphy and Great Walks operating.

Forum Topics discussed included:

Payne Ford access - 'Private' sign felt to be wrongly placed - to be checked out; Tasman District Coast Landscape Character Assessment - DOC and forum members urged to read report, attend the public meeting and make submissions; Golden Bay Jetties - DOC happy to discuss these with TDC and the Board; Freeman Access Puponga maintenance - TDC responsibility (Board trying to have this designated as a Special Purpose Road). Maintenance of other legal roads in Golden Bay discussed, i.e. Walsh Creek - Brown Hut car park, Birds Clearing, Rainbow Valley etc.

17 August - Attended Village Green Management Committee meeting called to discuss recent vandalism and also the placement of items partially obscuring the Mural. Artist Chris Finlayson in attendance for this item. It was resolved that the tree would not be replaced and shifting the light pole would be investigated.

17 August - Interview with Geoff Moffet, Radio NZ re the effect of rising fuel prices on the GB Community.

18 August - Attended Aorere/Kaituna River Care Meeting at Rockville Hall. River Engineers explained and discussed the forthcoming year's work programme and responded to questions.

19 August - Chaired 'Overnight Camping' meeting TDC Takaka. Good progress made on identifying issues and suggesting solutions, i.e. removing ambiguities from pamphlet, improved signage, improved accommodation options with existing camp grounds for dog owners etc possible through negotiation.

22 August - Attended Nelson Marlborough District Health Board/GB Health Review Group meeting at GB High School. Health Group and Board positions outlined and both responded to questions from participants. An integrated Health facility comprising all Health Services in Golden Bay is being investigated.

23 August - Attended the Tangi for Tui Martin at the Onetahua Marae. Tui had been a tremendous supporter of the Marae and many other community groups and initiatives inside and outside of Golden Bay. Tui stood for the Community Board at the 1998 elections. His passing will leave a big gap in several Tasman District Community organisations. Sympathy is extended to Ann and their family.

24 August - Attended the Community Enterprises meeting at TDC, Takaka as a Community Board representative. The meeting was called by Work and Income division of the Ministry of Social Development and was led by Mere Wetere. Issues arising from the down sizing of Fonterra following the fire including possible employment initiatives were discussed.

25 August - Organised and attended the Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Collingwood Water Reservoir planting project in conjunction with pupils from Collingwood Area School. Thanks are extended to teacher Lynne Maguire and her class for their willing participation. 225 Carex native grasses and 30 Cabbage trees were planted in an area prepared by KGBB.

30 August - Attended GB Futures informal meeting to discuss ways of engaging the wider community in the planning process.

30 August - Attended the Tasman District Coast Landscape Character Assessment meeting held in the Takaka Bowling Club Rooms. Raised concerns about possible misuse of the Report in Planning Hearings and about it recommending 'growth' for the area between Para Para and Rangihaeata the coastal area of which is generally least compromised by built development at present.

31 August - Chaired the Tasman District Coast Landscape Character Assessment meeting held in the Collingwood Hall.

Issues

Insulation subsidies

During her Takaka meeting Helen Clark advised of insulation grants available through a Government scheme. GB Grey Power has subsequently enquired about accessing these only to find that TDC has no facility arranged to take advantage of this scheme. The Community Board has been asked if they can help facilitate this. Efforts are being made to have information available for the September 13 Board meeting.

Speed Limit Review

A Late Report was submitted just prior to the Engineering Services meeting on 18 August. Following receipt of many community requests for appropriate speed limits and having been the Board Rep on this issue I was concerned about some of the implications of the Review and sent the following e-mail to the Committee.

“I have just received the Late Report on the Golden Bay Speed Limit Review. Whilst there are sensible recommendations for more settled areas some of the other recommendations definitely need more consideration.

The Warrant system, either in scope or interpretation, is clearly failing to enable common sense to be exercised.

I believe this Report must come back to the Community Board for local consideration before it is considered by Council. Specific areas of concern are the recommendations for Abel Tasman Drive, Para Para, Rototai Road, Collingwood, Central Takaka Road and Rangihaeata.

The narrow, winding, undulating nature of roads with poor verges must be taken into account for any meaningful outcome.

The Board receives many complaints and concerns about inappropriate speed limits especially about the areas listed above and it is hard to see why setting sensible appropriate speed limits is so difficult“.

Subsequently the Chairman Trevor Norris and Engineering Manager Peter Thompson have advised that the committee has adopted the recommendations; not to have done so may have delayed having any of the proposed limits in place for the coming summer.

I have since been approached by reporters for comments on the proposals. Residents of Para Para, Rangihaeata and Abel Tasman Drive have also been in contact concerned about the limits proposed for roads in their area. According to

the report, the recommendations will be open for public consultation but it is not clear how this is to be undertaken.

A letter has been sent to Government Agencies requesting a review into the Warrant System by which speed limits are presently being decided. It appears to be inflexible in scope or interpretation to allow for the setting of sensible appropriate limits. The New Zealand Local Authority Traffic Institute (Trafinz) has also been advised of concerns.

Planning Process

Recent reports on Rural Futures, Takaka and Eastern Golden Bay Urban Study, Tasman District Coast Landscape Character assessment, Water and Sanitary Services Assessment, Cycling and Walking Strategy and Tasman Futures each have over-lapping implications and need to be considered in unison instead of separately. I believe the Board needs to make strong representations to ensure that this happens.

In addition, we need to investigate ways of engaging as wide a community representation as we can in developing community planning. Claude Lewenz has suggestions for ways that we might do this. We need to identify key groups/communities of interests and try to have each of these represented by people acceptable to those communities. Maybe the Board could then appoint these representatives as a planning advisory group to bring both majority views and minority opinions forward for consideration.

One of the problems with the LGA 2002 in encouraging community involvement is that it does not specify a method for achieving this.

Recommendation: “That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the TDC CEO requesting that the various reports relevant to Golden Bay planning are considered in unison so that the best possible outcomes have the opportunity to evolve.”

And further: “That the Golden Bay Community Board engage with groups and communities in the Bay and determine the best method of gaining the widest possible input into community planning processes.”

Representation Review

The Representation Review subcommittee met on 30 August to discuss various scenarios developed by staff.

The Community Boards have previously been advised that different representation models would be able to be considered during this Review but we have not been given the opportunity to present these. One alternative model is

that of Community Councils for each Ward and I submitted the following e-mail to the sub-committee for consideration:

“I have just received a copy of the agenda for today’s meeting and appreciate the work that has gone into presenting the various scenarios. However, the scope of the Review appears to be quite narrow and confined to re-jigging the present structure. I feel that there are other governance models that need to be considered and wish to suggest the following as one of these. I believe that the present Golden Bay Ward does have a special case as an ‘Isolated Community’ as with the precedent set for Banks Peninsula. The present Golden Bay population is reported to be 5180 not 4791 as has been used in the calculations. This population would increase 3-4-fold during the high season. For these and other relevant reasons I believe that Golden Bay should retain two representatives.

This proposal is for:

Four Wards with a six person Community Council elected to each. These Community Councillors would provide the day to day governance for their respective Wards. Then:

- The elected Community Councillors of each Ward would appoint/elect representatives from their number to serve as Tasman District Councillors. Apart from Golden Bay, as above, representation would be on the basis of calculated thresholds. The responsibility of these representatives would be to set district-wide policies, rates etc taking into account the views brought forward from each Ward Council.
- The appointed/elected Tasman District councillors would in turn elect/appoint their Mayor/Chairperson and deputy Mayor/Chairperson.

This scenario allows for greater decision making at a local level which is what the 2002 LGA encourages. It is likely that the Community Councillors would elect/appoint the most capable councillors to represent the interests of their Ward and then these councillors would elect/appoint the most capable people to serve as their District Mayor/Chair, Deputy Mayor/Chair and Committee Chairs. I am sure there are other models too. I submit this suggestion in good faith and request that it be considered as an alternative to other proposals“.

Our community boards need to ensure that they have the opportunity to take a meaningful part in this Review process. It would be a great loss in local governance to be down to one or two Ward councillors and no community board. It was very disappointing to read the reported comments of Sub-committee Chair Cr Higgins in the Nelson Mail of 31 August. The implication of these comments was basically that Boards should not disagree with council. This is elitist. Community board member declarations are to represent their respective

communities. They must be able to do this without fear or favour. Every instance where our Board has taken issues up with Council i.e. Tarakohe Property sale and open Governance, appropriate speed limits and consultation processes is fully justified. Golden Bay support for local governance is also reflected in the high voting returns in elections. (2004 - 67.3%)

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the Tasman District Council CEO, Mayor and Representation Review Sub-committee requesting Community Board involvement in the Representation Review process including the consideration of other representation models.”

Pohara Water Supply Consultation

Concern has been expressed about discussion on partial returns to the Pohara Water Supply questionnaire. It is felt that this discussion could distort results and that comments should be held until after the closing date and the full collation of returns. Concern is also expressed about the lack of any costings to enable respondents to provide an informed reply and also the inclusion of a construction time line suggesting a 'done deal'.

The Board has requesting a briefing from Engineering Services on this proposal for the September 13 Board meeting.

Tarakohe Coastline

Concern has been expressed at a suggestion that the iconic 'hole in the rock' at Tarakohe be enlarged to accommodate trucks. The Board has not been asked about this but we must pass on these concerns. Any proposal to modify this feature should be by way of publicly notified consent process so that those interested can submit their views. In considering matters the following points need to be considered.

- Tarakohe Harbour is the destination for most large truck and trailer rigs. The few travelling past the harbour can be routed around the hole in the rock via the harbour access road.
- If 'safety' was a real consideration then the speed limit through this area would be much less than the recommended 100kmph. An advisory sign suggesting 30kmph through this feature would not be unrealistic. 100kmph is ridiculous.
- Although this feature has been modified in the past this is not sufficient reason to continue chopping away at it when there are other alternatives.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Engineering Services and requests that an advisory speed of 30kmph be set for the area of Abel Tasman Drive known as the ‘hole in the rock’ and further that if any proposal to modify this feature is to be considered, and which may require resource consent, then this be by way of a notified consent process with independent commissioner participation. In the meantime, access for over size vehicles continues to be via the Port Tarakohe internal road”

Pohara Hall

There has been some discussion between Community Services and the Takaka Drama Society about possible use of the Pohara Hall. It will be vital for there to be consultation with the Pohara and wider community before any decisions are made.

Christmas Decorations – Commercial Street

What does the Board think about upgrading/adding to the towns decorations?

Collingwood Museum

An on-site meeting is to be held on 6th September 2005. A verbal report on the outcome will be provided.

Joe Bell