

STAFF REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: The Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 1st August 2006
SUBJECT: Monthly Report

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

1 July Coast Care planting at Para Para

A good turn out of locals saw new spinifex and pingau plantings established. The success of previous efforts has encouraged other property owners to become involved.

3 July Agenda setting for the 11th July Board meeting

3 July Golden Bay Environment Centre AGM

The evening included Derry Kingston's talk about his recent walk from Bluff to Farewell Spit which was also a successful fundraiser for the Centre.

4 July Special Board Meeting to Discuss Tarakohe Financial Concerns

It was resolved: 1) To write to the Auditor General seeking a report on Port Tarakohe finances as per Local Government Act 2002 section 44(1) (d), and
2) To seek a restructuring of Tarakohe indebtedness to sustainable levels.

6 July Workshop Meeting on Tarakohe Finances with Board, CEO, Corporate Services and Service Centres Managers and Chairperson of Council Enterprises Subcommittee Chairperson.

11 July Community Board Meeting Takaka

11 July Meet the Candidate Meeting Takaka

The two candidates responded to questions on a variety of topics during a Public meeting organized by the Golden Bay Futures Group. It is helpful to have this type of meeting and it was a pity that more voters hadn't attended.

13 July Full Council Meeting Richmond

Invited to table. The Representation Review initial response report was received but not discussed pending the hearing of submissions proposed for 31 July.

13 July Travel to Lower Hutt for NZ Community Boards Forum

14 July Attended NZCB Forum

Keynote speakers and topics were Peter Kenyon (Director of IDEAS) on “Energising Our Communities”, Keith McGregor (Industrial Psychologist) on “Strategically Influencing Your Council”, Basil Morrison (President of Local Government New Zealand) on “The Role of Community Boards in the New World of LTCCP” and Tim Power (Lawyer) on “Effective Representation.”

15 July NZCB Forum continued

Attended workshop sessions on Provincial Sector Group issues, “Managing Your Council” with Keith McGregor and “Representation Review” with Tim Power. A report of some of the Key Points will be provided separately. Returned to Nelson. Copies of the Keynote presentations are available via the Hutt City Council Website <http://www.huttcity.govt.nz> and Local Government NZ website www.lgnz.co.nz A video of proceedings is also available.

16 – 27 July on Leave

27 July Chaired Milnthorpe Park Society AGM

Attended as TDC Representative to the Society.

Present office-holders re-elected with John Mason, DoC Area Manager, taking over the DoC appointment. The Park continues to develop with further plantings of Rimu and assorted other native trees and the releasing of earlier plantings. General business discussed mitigating fire risk and concerns about Milnthorpe Wharf management.

31 July Representation Review Hearings Motueka

Attended the Hearing to present the Board submission and was present for most of the Meeting. All submitters supported the Status Quo for Councillors and Community Boards with one exception which sought retention of Community Boards but suggested a reduction of Councillors from thirteen to nine. Council earlier resolved to accept a Legal opinion which stated that Councillors who had submitted to the Initial Position but who had subsequently withdrawn their submissions could take part in the Hearing. This was a logical outcome because all Councillors had aired their opinions on 1 June and had voted by Division so their individual positions were then known and declared. Council has reportedly reserved its decision until later in August

Issues

Port Tarakohe Finances

The Board workshop proposed for Tuesday 1st August will consider additional information provided to the Board. The outcome arising from the Workshop discussions will then be brought forward to the 8th August Board Meeting as minuted during the 11th July meeting.

Recycling Fee for Vacant Sections

Following a question from a Bay resident with a vacant section about why a recycling fee is charged when no service is required or provided. Enquiries indicate that this is the current policy.

When one considers that this is a 'user pays charge', if the service is not used because there is no dwelling then the charge appears to be unreasonable. Where there is a house and the service provided is not used by choice that is a different matter. Accordingly, it is suggested that:

"The Golden Bay Community Board writes to Engineering Services requesting that vacant sections not be charged the recycling user charge if the service is not being used."

Speed Limits

Whilst on leave I was impressed by appropriate speed limits set by our Cook Island neighbours.

Attached is a photograph taken on the Island of Aitutaki. Compare this with the other photo of Orion Street in Collingwood. Some may claim New Zealand is more sophisticated but in setting appropriate speed limits we are way off the mark. At a guess Aitutaki probably isn't driven by the apparent need to crank up the GDP by an estimated \$960m pa caused by the cost of inappropriate speeds on rural roads like NZ is. Our stupid Warrant Speed Limit system is a ridiculous NZ adaptation of Aussie Rules. It needs to be changed so that the recommended maximum speeds it enables are realistic and appropriate. In the examples provided compare the circumstances. One, a 6m wide sealed road with a marked centre line at 40kmph the other an unmarked 4m gravel track at 100kmph (the same maximum speed as fully engineered motorways).

If we were to have 'Drive to the Conditions' signs on all such roads the whole countryside would be littered with them. Surely it is common sense to simply set appropriate speed limits instead?

Citizenship Ceremonies

Manawhenua Ki Mohua has offered the Onetahua Marae as a possible venue for citizenship ceremonies. It is therefore suggested that the Service Centres Manager prepare a report for the Board on this matter.

Toilet Access Pohara Hall

Concern has been expressed about the toilets in the Pohara Hall not being accessible by those in wheel chairs. It is understood that this was to be put right during the upgrades of Halls to meet Warrant of Fitness requirements. Accordingly, it is suggested:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Community services requesting that toilet facilities at the Pohara Hall be wheel chair accessible.”

Emergency Radio Broadcasts

Following the 11th July Board meeting I have had a call from Patrick Steer of Fresh FM regarding emergency radio broadcasts. Patrick advises that they have negotiated a new frequency which will operate from Takaka and this will have wider coverage than previously. They hope eventually to transmit from Mt Burnett. Patrick will attend the Board meeting to further explain this facility.

Joe Bell