

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 2nd October 2006
SUBJECT: Monthly Report for October 2006

Meetings, activities and events attended during the Month included the following:

September 4 – Agenda setting for 12th September Board meeting.

September 4 – Board workshop to discuss Representation Review matters and response to proposed abolition of Community Boards by Tasman District Council.

September 6 – meeting with Council Planner Sonya Leusink and Golden Bay Futures members at Motupipi. Discussed aspects of the Takaka and Eastern Golden Bay Strategic Plan as part of on-going community consultation.

September 12 – Community Board meeting Takaka.

September 14 – Attended Special Council meeting Richmond together with Board member Leigh Gamby. Golden Bay issues on the Agenda included the Representation Review. It was concerning to see the minutes of the 24th August meeting which included ‘reasons’ for Representation Review decisions which were not part of the meeting confirmed as a true and correct record. This concern was compounded when these ‘reasons’ were discussed later in the meeting as an Agenda item. The CEO described this as ‘belt and braces’ but it was clear that in not following correct process it was too late to try to hold their trousers up.

The other item was the Board letter to the CEO regarding Tarakohe which Council resolved to ‘receive’. Of concern was a suggestion that no set changes should appear in the rules for ‘commercially sensitive’ reasons. It is clear that without clear set charges there would be a real risk of ‘mate’s rates’ being sought which would continually put the Port administration in a vulnerable position.

Whether set charges appear in the Annual Plan/LTCCP or the Harbour by-law they do need to be recorded, set and collected.

15 September - Golden Bay Service Centre Community Board correspondence.

15 September – Recorded Fresh FM Radio programme discussing 12th September Community Board meeting items.

18 September – Participated in Keep Golden Bay Beautiful roadside cleanup SH60 between Milnthorpe and Collingwood. 6 bags of litter from 4.4km stretch. It is disappointing that the amount of litter retrieved each year is not diminishing. It is also very disappointing to see more litter alongside the cleaned stretches already.

18 September – Annual Plan/LTCCP meeting Collingwood. Other issues discussed included Golden Bay Strategic Planning and Representation Review.

19 September – Annual Plan/LTCCP meeting Takaka. Issues discussed as above.

20 September – Annual Plan/LTCCP meeting Pohara Boat Club rooms Tarakohe. Issues as above.

21 September – Environment and planning Hearing of Harbour By-law submissions Richmond. Presented Board submission and responded to questions. Fee for landing fish and shell fish remains at \$9.75 per tonne. This fee is now being collected.

21 September – Bay Lit Awards Night Mussel Inn, Onekaka. Another excellent collection of writing from Junior, Youth and Adult categories. The Golden Bay Arts Council and sponsors deserve community thanks for running Bay Lit each year.

23 September – Golden Bay Community Gardens Hands Market and open day. Very well attended, with stalls offering a range of produce and informative talks.

23 September – Bay Art Golden Bay High School. Another excellent exhibition with a great range of art media and style. Thanks are due to the Arts Council and sponsors for another successful event.

23 September – Open day at the new Mohua Motel complex adjacent to the Southern boundary of Takaka township. The motel unit lay-out and furnishings are a real credit to family owners and builders Paul and Lenaire Crockford.

25 September - Golden Bay Community Board Representation Review Appeal/objection completed, compiled and sent to Local Government Commission via Tasman District Council.

27 September - Representation Review Appeals/objections closing day.

ISSUES

Community Board Portfolios

Following the resignation of Neil Hill and the election of Mik Symmons we need to have a look at the allocation of the portfolios vacated by Neil. In most cases these will be able to be taken up by Mik but there may need to be some other adjustments. A copy of the list of responsibilities is attached.

Citizenship Ceremonies

Following Board enquiries through the Service Centres Manager about citizenship ceremonies we have had a reply from the Minister. In light of previous enquiries from Golden Bay residents seeking citizenship and wishing for the ceremony to be performed by the Community Board I feel that we can respond to the letter requesting that Community Board chairpersons be added to the list of celebrants. It is therefore recommended that the Board formally does this. As we found, it is wonderful to be able to formally welcome new citizens into our community by also conducting the ceremony.

Pohara Hall Mezzanine Floor

There has been an enquiry about the removal of the Pohara Hall mezzanine floor that has been referred to Lloyd Kennedy for comment. I am not aware of this issue being brought to the Board prior to removal and was most surprised to see that it had happened. A reply has been sought so that the enquiry can be responded to.

Regional Councils

During a recent brief visit to Hawkes Bay I happened to pick up a copy of their Regional Council newsletter. Practically every article referred to issues that we deal with here in the Bay as a District Council with Regional Council responsibilities including Coast Care, safer cycling, recycling, river works, planning, pest control etc. These are all matters that we deal with as a Unitary Authority on top of the usual District Council responsibilities and they support the need for our District to retain adequate representation to cover these.

Representation Review

There has been a tremendous response to the Tasman District Council 8-6 split decision to abolish the community boards together with the earlier decision to reduce Lakes Murchison representation, with 765 + 4 'late' appeal/objection submissions from Golden Bay, 23 + 8 from Motueka, 110 from Lakes/Murchison, 35 from Moutere/Waimea, 8 from Richmond and 3 + 1 from 'others' (Chamber of Commerce, NZ Rural Women etc).

These submissions will be sent to Local Government Commission for Hearing and consideration in due course.

There was a wonderful expression of support for both of our community boards with one of the Motueka submissions being a joint objection with 2135 signatures.

Community Gardens

During the recent visit of Lianne Nichols from the Ministry of Social Development possibilities for local initiatives were discussed. The idea of developing a horticulture module between the Community Gardens and the Golden Bay High School was suggested. The purpose of this would be to provide training in the raising of native plant seedlings which would result in plants being available for riparian and coast care projects in the Bay. To pursue this idea a proposal would need to be put to both the Community Gardens Trustees and the Golden Bay High School. It is therefore suggested that the Golden Bay Community Board become the sponsors for this idea in taking it out to consultation with those concerned.

If the agencies involved are interested in taking the idea forward perhaps the Board could offer some start-up help from the discretionary fund?

Water Heating

During the September briefing by Claire Webster on solar energy, the Mayor suggested that this should not be promoted by the Board as an energy saving solution. Information received from Meridian Energy, New Zealand's largest electricity generator, lists water heating costs as comprising 47% of the average power bill, by far the largest single component. (Room heating 19%, other appliances 11%, refrigeration 10%, cooking 7%, lighting 6%). It is clear from these figures that alternative water heating would have a huge impact on both energy use and cost.

“An Inconvenient Truth”

In following on from the above item, I recently viewed Al Gore’s informative documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” about the impacts of, and predictions for, the effects of global warming. I recommend this as a ‘must see’ for all. Putting the ‘American style’ to one side, the film held information which will profoundly affect all of us. Using solar water heating and energy systems or other alternative renewable energy sources could make a huge difference to our outlook.

Joe Bell