

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 3rd November 2006
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – November 2006

Meetings, events and activities attended during the past month included:

2 October – Agenda setting for 10th October Board meeting

5 October – Keep Golden Bay Beautiful committee meeting Onekaka. Matters discussed included: KGBB to become a separate Incorporated Society, 2006 planting of Kowhai trees for babies to be organized, Community Gardens – GBHS nursery suggestion supported, a Community Service worker's efforts praised.

9 October – Memorial Service for Jim Hayter. Much is written of Jim's World War II service in the RAF - Squadron Leader, DFC and Bar, 535 sorties, many narrow escapes. Following the War Jim had a big part to play in various aspects of Golden Bay life. He was an early National Park Ranger at Totaranui when the park was changing from private ownership to re-generating reserve and required initial walking track creation etc. He was later involved in land development operating the Tukurua Motor camp in its establishment years and also undertook Pohara's Selwyn Street subdivision amongst others.

His positive contributions are acknowledged.

10 October – Community Board meeting Takaka.

13 October – recorded interview regarding October Community Board meeting matters at Fresh FM for the TDC 'Lowdown' programme.

16 October – Meeting at Kotinga Hall with residents regarding bridge on Anatoki Track Road and the Anatoki Track Road and Long Plain Road maintenance.

16 October – 80th Birthday celebrations for Charles Naylor at Onekaka. Charles is a retired Minister who is much involved in Golden Bay community

activities including Golden Bay Choir. Congratulations are extended to him on reaching this milestone.

17 October – Golden Bay Performance Centre Public meeting Takaka. Called by the Takaka Drama Society the meeting discussed a replacement for the present Play House with a new facility for all of the performance arts. Wide support for this was advised.

18 October – DOC Community Forum Takaka.

Update issues included:

- Fire at Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve – about 5ha burnt.
- Pittisporum Patulum protection proving successful in Cobb Valley.
- Weka released at Totaranui now paired up and nesting.
- Concessions being monitored. Concessionaries to carry identification cards.
- Powelliphanta snail monitoring underway at Canaan.
- More mudfish found at Mangarakau.
- New bridge erected on Kaituna Track, another needed.
- Wainui swing bridge anchors replaced.
- Trees posing a risk removed from around Totaranui Camp Ground.
- Field Trip to Anatoki Forks by Deer Learning group.
- 2000ha Goulard Downs Kiwi care gel bait possum control completed.

Agenda Items included:

- Chris Petyt reported Friends of the Cobb have established a trap line for stoats from Trilobite to Chaffey Huts.
- Cobb Range Rock Wren project continuing this summer.
- Big River crossing. Poor information reportedly being provided in Nelson. Photo map with tides info and crossing points marked suggested.
- White bait fishery. Daily bag limit/Commercial quota and licenses suggested.
Main sustainability issue is drainage of habitat, flood gates, inappropriate culverts etc.
- Milnthorpe Scenic Reserve signage completed.
- Anatoki Track Road Bridge. Department of Conservation declined to become involved. This is a Tasman District Council responsibility. DoC does not need a bridge for their purposes.

18 October – Annual Plan / Long Term Council Community Plan, East Takaka.

20 October – Annual Plan / LTCCP meeting, Pakawau.

Obituary

Merrin Westerink

Golden Bay lost one of our special residents with the passing of Merrin Westerink. Merrin was a great contributor and supporter to the Arts and other community initiatives. The Stone Symposiums at "Fairholme" were wonderful community experiences in beautiful surroundings. Sincere condolences are extended to Merrin's family and friends.

ISSUES

Horticulture Covers Riwaka

Concern has been expressed about the visual environmental impact in the Riwaka area. Several letters about this matter were included in the Motueka Community Board agenda. The Tasman District Council response appears to be inadequate. As nearby residents state, they had to comply with building site, design and recessive colour requirements whereas there are no restrictions imposed on 300ha plus of bright red.

The view from the Takaka Hill was one of the attractions of a trip to Golden Bay. The view on the Riwaka side has been visually compromised.

If the covers have to be there perhaps they could be red on the inside and a recessive colour such as green/brown on the outside?

East Takaka Landscape/ erosion concerns

With the removal of landscape priority sections from the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan, Tasman District Council has very poor policies/rules for environmental impacts. This again came onto focus with concerns by East Takaka residents to proposed tracking, and a power line, on a very steep prominent hill. Appropriate policies and rules do need to be implemented.

Therefore it is recommended: "That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Tasman District Council's Resource Management Policy Committee pointing out the inadequacy of current rules and policies in the PTRMP for dealing with Environmental effects through visual and land disturbance impacts using the Riwaka flats and East Takaka hill proposals as examples."

Collingwood Coast care

Members will recall correspondence raising some concern about aspects of the Collingwood Coast Care project. It was suggested that we invite Beryl Wilkes to this meeting to brief the Board and it is intended that we will adjourn to inspect the area at some stage during the day.

Anatoki Track Bridge

Tasman District Council response to this matter was initially very disappointing. This is a legal road administered by Council which serves several dwellings and public access to public land. The road was reportedly maintained by Council in Golden Bay County Council days. Council should work with residents to find a solution as happened with Grubb Creek at Quartz Range. That bridge was not providing a family access and there was also an alternative route. There is no alternative route for Anatoki Track Road. The money for inspection and drawing up plans for the existing bridge would be better applied to upgrading the bridge.

Access for residents should be core business of Council. It is strange that millions can be found for Richmond streetscaping when Croucher/Queen St looks perfectly fine as it is at present.

Golden Bay Heritage Aorere Trust

Approval has been now given by Tasman District Council for the Trust to occupy the site adjacent, but separate to, the Collingwood Museum. The Trust is to be congratulated on its persistence in the face of long delays. The construction and completion of this building will provide another valuable community facility which will complement the Museum.

Quilt Purchase

The Board will recall that we were offered the Abel Tasman Quilt with a decision required by 1st November. Our fund raising efforts have been successful and to date we have raised \$2100 of the \$4600 asking price. The Golden Bay Quilters' Guild has offered purchase by instalment. Currently we are awaiting the outcome of two further funding applications and also have two other agencies to try. Taking all of this into account I recommend that the Board should affirm its intention to purchase the quilt and continue fundraising for this purpose.

Port Nelson

The subterfuge in financial management of public assets never fails to amaze. The latest is the offer of a \$25m 'share buy-back' for the two Councils as shareholders of Port Nelson Ltd with 50% of the shares each. As with earlier 'Special Dividends' such payments are really distributions of capital funded by borrowing. Whilst one can see the advantage of Council borrowing through the Port Company (tax deductibility of interest) we should not try to dress this distribution up into something that it is not. TDC should use this distribution to retire other debt. To spend it simply adds to TDC indebtedness through its subsidiary holding. It is therefore suggested that \$2.9m be allocated to repay the Port Tarakohe debt enabling Tarakohe to be able to service funding for further projects such as repairs to the main wharf, a replacement for the wooden wharf and securing a viable water supply.

Motupipi River

Considerable community concern has been expressed about the very poor state of the Motupipi River. Council staff aided by Cawthron Institute have been monitoring the river and trying to identify the reasons for the problems. Farmer landowners in the catchment have had a briefing of the issues and it is proposed that there be a briefing of other residents and interested parties which will be followed by a public meeting for all. The date for this is to be advised.

It is important that the health of this River is improved as soon as possible. A "Friends of Motupipi River Group" is one community suggestion which has been made.

Port Tarakohe

Several management issues for Port Tarakohe have arisen and were discussed by the Council Enterprises Sub-committee on 2 November. These include some deterioration in the main wharf, stormwater problems and the loss of the water supply. This port is a vital Golden Bay asset which is likely to become very valuable as time goes by. With rising interest in ways to mitigate global warming and achieve efficient fuel use, it makes so much more sense to shift goods in 5000 tonne shipments by barge using 1000hp than it does to shift 25 tonne loads by truck using 500hp. As the Board has previously identified, it is vital that strong governance, management and financial control principles be applied to the operation of the Port. With regard to the latter it is difficult to understand the delay in invoicing port users when the financial year commences on the 1st July each year. Other Council service charges i.e. rates, dog licenses etc are invoiced at the commencement of the financial year.

The efforts of the present harbour administrator and harbour manager are appreciated and no doubt many of the issues they have to deal with are due to past neglect. Perhaps our Councillors and Service Centres Manager can update the Board on these issues.

Suter Art Gallery

It is good news that the Suter is to become a Council Controlled Enterprise. As a Regional Community we now need to go back to the drawing board. As a fairly regular visitor to the Gallery I feel that the grandiose plans were way over the top in size, scale and cost for the Queens Gardens site. Apart from some neglected maintenance, the present Suter building is appropriate and is ideal for most exhibitions. Perhaps the funds already raised would be better used towards a much needed Regional Performance Centre?

Regional Performance Centre

With the Suter Review underway it is timely to also look at the need for a Regional Performance Centre in order to achieve the best outcome and value for money. With the Theatre Royal also needing extensive work perhaps it is time to look at a new complex on its site and also investigate incorporating the adjacent Army Barracks site next door?

Personal

I have been unable to take a full part in Board activities since 25 October due to convalescence and wish to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Board members for attending the meetings and for the kind messages of support from the Board and the wider community. I hope to be back playing a full part at the earliest opportunity.

Joe Bell