

STAFF REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: Board Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 5th February 2008
SUBJECT: Report for February 2008 Meeting

Activities, events and meetings attended during December 2007 and January 2008 included the following:

December 1- 9 - Private visit to Coromandel Peninsula

Some random items of interest include:

- Loss of resident population in places like Whangamata as permanent homes are bought at high prices for 'hollow' or holiday homes (population reportedly now 3,000 down from 3,500).
- Many other 'hollow home' settlements with large numbers of closed-up houses. (It appears NZ has a 'housing distribution imbalance' rather than a 'housing shortage').
- Numerous single-lane bridges on highways.
- Sensible use of unobtrusive but effective international symbol signs for advising requirements i.e. 'no fires' (pic attached).
- Huge loss of indigenous forest cover noted with very few old Kauri remaining. Extensive re-vegetation projects underway in both forest and Coast care.

December 10 - Attended Environment Court Hearing in Nelson as an observer and Community Board Environment and Planning representative. The Hearing was for a Reference to the Proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan regarding the need for Coastal Landscape policies. In seeing all of the expensive lawyers lined up I experienced a strong sense of Aquaculture Hearing *deja vu*.

There must be a better way than expensive litigation to resolve this matter. Having read the pertinent papers it is highly likely the Court will require TDC to develop Coastal Landscape policies. Resources need to be applied to that

instead of paying lawyers to fight a Court case and then have to develop policies as well.

We need to take the opportunity to find a way to settle this matter prior to a Hearing. If TDC is really looking for a way to save money, here it is.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports a settlement of the reference relating to Coastal Landscapes by negotiations between the parties.”

December 11- Community Board Meeting Takaka.

December 11 - Citizenship Ceremony - Bay residents Luke Burrows, Sara, Peter and Fleur Howard and Kelly Bannister attained their New Zealand Citizenship in a ceremony following the Board meeting. It is a privilege to welcome new Citizens to our community and to hear about how they came to be in Golden Bay.

December 11 - Summer Banner Project - Visited the working bee painting the banners in the garage at the rear of TDC Service Centre. This is a wonderful community project and the outcome has added originality and vibrancy to the streetscapes of both Takaka and Collingwood.

December 11 - Milnthorpe Community Self Reliance Meeting - Residents discussed fire control measures and signage as a follow-up to previous meetings and exercise with the Collingwood Volunteer Fire Brigade.

December 13 - Environment and Planning Meeting Richmond - Attended as the Board E&P representative along with Board members Carolyn McLellan, and Karen Brookes in support of the Western Golden Bay Planning Project. It was disappointing not to be invited to the table with speaking rights as has been the case since 1995. Instead I was invited to address the committee prior to the matter being discussed. This loss of speaking rights during a debate is another loss of Board inclusion in the decision-making process. However, it was heartening to hear the Chair of Engineering Services advise that we would continue to have speaking rights during meetings of that Committee. It is sincerely hoped that other Committee chairs will follow his lead.

Our Community Board should continue to invite visiting councillors to our table with speaking rights.

The E & P Committee voted to continue with the vital Western Golden Bay Planning Project which is most heartening.

December 14 - Combined Community Boards Workshop Takaka - Issues discussed included:

- Community Board delegations.
- Targeted rates.
- Councillors and Community Boards.

December 15 - Takaka Market - It is great to see this market well supported by stall holders and the public. The idea for an expanded local market was supported through the Self Reliance initiatives. This market has the potential to be the Bay equivalent of the very successful Nelson and Motueka markets. It is also an opportunity for discussion about a variety of issues raised by residents including car park revamp, Takaka water etc.

December 18 & 19 - Transit NZ Site Traffic Manager Supervisor (STMS) Course Onekaka - This successfully completed the three-day training to be able to plan for the placement of signs and other traffic control equipment on our roads for Events etc. We now have a pool of 5 newly-trained people in Golden Bay.

December 21 - Interviewed by Dan Beban of "Sounds Archive on Tour" who are travelling New Zealand commencing with Golden Bay, making recordings for a Historical compilation as with previous similar Radio New Zealand ventures.

December 22 - Participated in the wonderfully successful and revived Santa Parade - Organised primarily by the Golden Bay Collectable Vehicle Club, this family event attracted a large number of entries for a most colourful parade in front of a large and appreciative crowd. Attended the Takaka Market at the conclusion of the parade responding to questions/comments from residents on various matters of interest and concern including property values and rates and proposed Youth Centre.

December 29 - Participated in the vibrant Collingwood Market Day display and viewed the subsequent **Raft race**. Both were further successful Golden Bay events.

January 3 - Jazz on the Village Green - Supported by the TDC, this well-attended community event added to the colour of a vibrant summer season for locals and visitors alike. The new canopy for the stage proved to be a great success. I assisted with packing it up after the performance and was impressed by the clever engineering which enables it to concertina into a compact package for travel and storage. Thanks are due to the Heart Art organizers for fundraising for this canopy during the 2006-07 festival.

Recommendation: "That the GB Community Board writes to Grant Knowles as organiser of the Heart Art thanking them for the funding for the major part of the stage canopy for the Village Green."

January 4 - Sand Sculpture Extravaganza Pohara - Another successful Community event organised by the GB Arts Council and supported by many Golden Bay businesses. This was a wonderful opportunity for families and groups to be creative with their efforts providing interesting viewing for all.

January 11 - Met with Phil Chase Deputy Chair of Eden/ Mt Albert Community Board - Compared notes regarding the operation of our respective Boards. His Board currently has a budget of \$406,000 pa for Small Local Improvement Projects (SLIPs).

January 12 - Milnthorpe Park - Assisted in preparing a site for a memorial sculpture for Merrin Westerink in my capacity of TDC representative on Milnthorpe Park Society Committee where I currently serve as Chairperson.

January 13 - Cardboard Boat Race Tata Beach - Another wonderful community occasion where artistic and innovative cardboard creations abounded with great support from sponsors, participants and spectators.

January 15 - Met with delegation of visitors from Grootegarst, Holland - the birthplace of Abel Tasman, for a shared lunch at the Wholemeal Cafe.

January 15 - Attended Golden Bay Museum, Takaka, together with Grootegarst visitors and viewed the Abel Tasman memorabilia and other exhibits. The Mayor of Grootegarst, Kor Dijkstra, made presentations of Abel Tasman material to the Museum committee.

January 16 - Milnthorpe Park placement of the FXG limestone plinth for the Merrin Westerink sculpture.

January 19 - Golden Bay A&P Show - Organised and participated in the roster for attending the TDC Stand, answering public enquiries and selling TDC publications. Another wonderful community occasion with great weather and attendance.

January 21 - Commencement of the Heart Art Sculpture Symposium Milnthorpe Park . Attended briefing of sculptors and participated in group sculpture construction as an invited guest.

January 22 - Assisted in the placement of the Merrin Westerink memorial sculpture.

January 23 - Worked on my Milnthorpe Park sculpture for Heart Art.

January 24 - Community Board workshop meeting with Mayor Kempthorne.

Discussions included:

- Targeted rating.
- Coastal landscape Environment Court reference.
- Setting meeting dates through inclusive consultation.
- The need to establishing policy and guidelines for dealing with TDC complaints and feed-back.

The Board also approved in principle the purchase of a lifting sling for Joan Whiting Rest Home from Anne Castle Memorial fund to be ratified during 12 February 2008 Board meeting.

January 24 - Team Golden Bay meeting with TDC contract planner Sonya Leusink-Sladen for the next steps in Takaka-Eastern Golden Bay planning.

January 25 - Tour of the sculptures with Milnthorpe Park sculpture symposium participants.

January 26 - Milnthorpe Park Symposium placement of my second sculpture.

January 27 - Unveiling and blessing of the Merrin Westerink Memorial Sculpture Milnthorpe Park. Spoke as Chairperson of Golden Bay Community Board and TDC representative on Milnthorpe Park Society as Chair of that committee. Thanks are due to the Golden Bay Arts Council for their efforts to fund raise for the sculpture and to sponsors who contributed to its transport. Special thanks to Dick Nicholls whose hard work and vision have led to the wonderful sculptural re-vegetation of a 400 acre coastal landscape.

January 30 - Village Green Management Committee Meeting, Takaka.

Matters discussed included:

- The need for an additional seat on the shaded side of the Green.
- Schedule of charges.
- Protocol for use of new stage canopy.
- Enquire whether a Risk Assessment form completion is needed for events on the Green and who carries the risk, if any.
- Concerns about power cable supply to the stage.
- Concerns about the delay in establishing a new water supply to the fountains.

ISSUES

Marine Bio-security

From correspondence with Bio-security NZ it has become evident that there is a gap in monitoring vessels that enter and anchor in our territorial waters for long periods without entering a NZ Port. The Department is now preparing a policy to cover these vessels.

This issue arose because tankers collecting oil from an off-shore Taranaki field are anchoring in Golden Bay for long periods whilst awaiting berthage at the terminal.

Vehicles on Beaches

As predicted, a fatal accident happened on a beach when a carelessly ridden motor cycle ran into two girls sitting on the sand killing one and badly injuring the other. Although it wasn't a Golden Bay beach it could well have been. Having previously recognized the danger and having tried to have by-laws instituted without success, our Board should join with calls to have more control over vehicles on our beaches.

Accordingly, I recommend: "That the Board writes to the Far North District Council and Central Government expressing our concern about the fatal accident and offering support for appropriate rules governing vehicles on beaches."

Complaints and Feedback Policy

Our proposed policy suggestion has been declined by the CEO. However, it is the Council responsibility to determine Policy. Therefore I suggest the following recommendation: "That the GB Community Board submits its Proposed Policy Paper to Full Council for consideration.

Further, that the Board suitably amends the Policy and adopts it as guidance for its own actions in dealing with complaints and feedback."

Joan Whiting Patient Sling

We have received a request from Joan Whiting Rest Home for funding from the Ann Castle Memorial fund for a patient lifting sling. The Trustees have agreed to recommend the funding and the Board has agreed in principle also. We now need to formally ratify the recommendation that the Golden Bay Community Board agrees to advance \$851.51 to the Joan Whiting Rest Home for the purchase of a Sling assist-a-care device. On checking with the Home the manager advises that they have had the sling on approval and it has proved to be a real boon for patients and staff alike.

Ann Castle Memorial Fund Trustees

It became apparent during the consideration of the Joan Whiting application that we need to amend the named Administrators to take account of the fact that Bob Askew is no longer the Service Centres Manager. Accordingly, it is suggested that Golden Bay Service Centre Office Senior Nancy Heyes is appointed to this role in place of Bob. I have checked with Nancy and she is prepared to accept this role. I therefore recommend that the Board proceeds with this change.

5 Knot Marine Speed Limit

Following reported abuses together with apparent ignorance of the law it is suggested that there be increased publicity highlighting the 5-knot speed limit within 200 metres of the shore. This could be done through TDC and through requests to the Water Safety Council. One suggestion is for advisory stickers to be attached in appropriate places to vessels and jet skis sold through boat dealers.

Recommendation: "That the GB Community Board takes the issue of publicity for the 5-knot speed limit up with Tasman District Council and the Water Safety Council."

SH 60 Review

Transit NZ is undertaking another SH60 Review and calling for submissions.

Recommendation: "That the Board prepare another submission and submit it before the closing date in March 2008."

Airport Parking

There is concern expressed about the effect on rural residents of the increased parking fees at Nelson Airport. Whilst Nelson and Richmond residents can take a taxi or have family and friends run them to and from the airport it is not so easy for distant rural residents. The \$8.00 per day becomes a tax on rural residents who are required to leave their vehicle at the airport. Issues like this need to be fairly taken into account when District and Regional equity is being considered.

Targeted Rates

On researching the LGA 2002 legislative process it is clear that the intent was to encourage community participation not to inhibit it.

LGA 2002 Schedule 7, 39 (1) clearly reflects this intent:

"The expenses of the performance and exercise by a community board of its responsibilities, duties and powers must be paid by the territorial authority within whose district the community is situated out of the general revenues of the district."

A legal opinion indicates that some have been misinterpreting Schedule 7 39(3). On careful reading it is apparent that this clause relates to S7 39(2) and **NOT S7 39(1)**.

From our enquiries the differing opinions about Schedule 7 clauses 38, and 39 (1), (2) and (3) are recognized and will be part of the LGA Review. It would be quite wrong to act on one of these differing opinions especially whilst the matter is being reviewed by Parliament. At the very least in the interim to the Review, there needs to be a definitive, explanatory declaratory judgment taking the intent of the Act into account in context before any decisions are made.

Recommendation: "That the GB Community Board formally requests Tasman District Council to endorse a funding request to the Local Government New Zealand Ready Response Fund for a definitive, explanatory declaratory judgement on the intent and purpose of Schedule 7 Clauses 38 and 39 (1), (2) and (3) considered in conjunction with the Purpose of the Local Government Act 2002."

We need to be able to get on and work positively on the many projects ahead of us in 2008 such as completion of Award-winning Takaka-Eastern Golden Bay planning process and commencement of vital Western Golden Bay planning and not have to expend time and energy fighting another Representation Review-style re-run.

Happy New Year

Although a month has already passed I would like to take this opportunity to wish all in our Community a Happy, Healthy, Inclusive and Considerate 2008.

Joe Bell