

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board

FROM: Chairperson

REFERENCE: E855

DATE: 29th January 2009

SUBJECT: Report (No 09/02/01) for 10th February 2009 Board Meeting

Activities, events and meetings attended during the past two months have included:

1 December: 'Weed Busters' meeting Takaka. Briefing by National Coordinator, Carolyn Lewis, following the recent 5 year review which found that public awareness of weed species is improving.

2 December: Community Board morning tea for TDC Golden Bay Service Centre Staff. This provided an opportunity to show appreciation for our local staff by the Board and on behalf of the wider community.

2 December: Regional Land Transport Hearing, Nelson City Council. Presented Board submission which acknowledged that road travel does not stop at an arbitrary boundary between Tasman and Nelson. Most of the traffic delays experienced by Golden Bay travellers are within the Nelson City area, i.e. Rocks Rd, Tahunanui Drive, Waimea Rd etc.

2 December: Enviro Schools Award presentation, Nayland College. This is a positive programme which encourages participation in environmental initiatives by pupils and teachers and helps raise awareness of a wide range of environmental initiatives. Congratulations to the Collingwood Area School pupils who received a bronze award.

3 December: Meeting with TDC Reserves Officer Kathy Tohill regarding tree maintenance on Milnthorpe Reserves.

4 December: Signing of letters and Certificates for Award recipients in the Golden Bay Community Board Garden Competition at TDC.

4 December: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful committee meeting Onekaka.

Update on various projects discussed and accounts considered.

9 December: Community Board Meeting Takaka.

9 December: Citizenship Ceremony Takaka. Congratulated and welcomed new citizens Ms Kelcey Chandler-Yates, Mr Nicholas Chandler-Yates, Ms Cindy Moul, Mrs Kathryn Ricketts, Mr Paul Shearing, Mrs Sally-Marie Shearing and Mr Jonathan Shearing on behalf of the wider community.

11 December: Opening of Copper Lake Winery Rototai. A wonderful occasion for this fine boutique winery developed by Sue Lindsay and Peter Jones since 2003. Their Pinot Gris has since been highly rated by the Nelson Mail wine writer which bodes well for the future of this and other vintages.

14 December: Inspected the walkway at Selwyn St Pohara following expressions of concern by local residents that a formed gravel path is not necessary and will make it difficult to maintain the grass. Subsequently took the issue up with TDC Reserves Manager who responded that a path is necessary to define that the Esplanade Reserve is a public area.

14 December: HANDS market Wainui Bay. Another successful very well attended market. HANDS is going from strength to strength with increasing membership and participation.

16 December: Meeting with Friends of Rototai Road and the TDC Roading Engineer Steve Elkington together with Board members Leigh Gamby and Karen Brookes. Also discussed community concerns expressed about road safety in vicinity of Rototai Rd/Arapeta Place intersection. Directional arrows to be added to the sight board at the corner. Double yellow lines also requested for corner along with a reduced speed limit. 60kmph suggested as a compromise between 50kmph and 70kmph. Mr Elkington undertook to consider these matters.

16 December: Meeting with a representative of Friends of Labyrinth Park and Steve Elkington together with Board members Leigh Gamby and Karen Brookes, at proposed car park site. Area explored and Mr Elkington appeared comfortable with what is proposed once it was inspected and explained. The 'Friends' have obtained a very good price to form the car park but permission has not been forthcoming from TDC. A new access is needed into the Park following the relinquishment of the lease and the closure of the Park as a commercial enterprise by the original lessee.

22 December: Funeral service for 15 year old Sam Bowker-Napp at Onekaka. The service had not been advertised but by word of mouth the Golden

Bay community turned out in great numbers to show love and support for the Bowker-Napp family. It is a wonderful feeling to be part of such a caring community which arrived quietly bringing gifts of baking, flowers, trees and compassion. The eulogies from Sam's family, friends and teachers related what a special young man Sam was. Musical items added another moving dimension to the beautiful service. Our sympathy is extended to the Bowker-Napp family.

26 December: Trevor Solly's funeral at 'Ferntown'.

A large congregation paid tribute to the patriarch of the Solly family, relating how his life time of hard work helped to develop the Aorere Valley and dolomite and lime works for the great benefit of the District. Trevor's community contribution through Search and Rescue was also acknowledged and appreciated as was his providing vast quantities of firewood and kindling to around 20 households each year. Our sympathy is extended to the Solly family.

3 January: Totally local market Collingwood and Aorere Raft race.

5 January: Jazz Festival Village Green sponsored by Tasman District Council.

8 January: Sand Sculpture Event, Pohara Beach.

11 January: Cardboard Boat Race, Tata Beach.

17 January: A&P Show Takaka. Attended TDC stand 10 – 12 and also the Community Workers 'non-violence' stand.

18 January: Spring Thomas and Michel Rose von Dreger Art Exhibition Gallery Z.

20 January: Community Board budget meeting with TDC Corporate Services Manager Murray Staite.

21 January: Abel Tasman National Park Forum discussing management for the Scenic Reserve held in Motueka.

24 January: Vistara Festival Motueka Valley. Invited to speak on the topic of Regionalisation, along with Bruce Dyer (Progressive Utilisation Theory ('Prout')), Tara Forde (Motueka Community Board) and Bill Findlater (Nelson Development Agency). Discussion groups followed.

25 January: Totally Local Market and launch of Heart Art 2009, Pohara.

25 January: Attended Golden Bay Holiday Park Tukuruia regarding issues about beach access. Discussion with manager. Currently, no public access by residents from the vicinity available through the Camp from 1st December to 1st March.

26 January: Sculpture Symposium Milnthorpe Park. Attended briefing at symposium camp-site and commenced construction of sculpture.

27 January: Continued work on sculpture.

27 January: Combined Community Boards workshop, Takaka. matters discussed included: targeted rate; TDC charge out rates and budgets; Training for Community Boards; Community Board Conference; Governance options, Community Board delegations; Exclusive 'in committee' business being conducted by TDC.

28 January: Fire fighting water supplies public meetings Takaka 2-4 pm and 7-9.15pm. The afternoon meeting was an informal opportunity for residents to ask questions about the proposal and the evening meeting comprised of presentations by the Fire Service and TDC engineers. This was followed by a question and discussion period. It was apparent from both meetings that there is a wide range of views to be taken into account.

29 January: Agenda setting for the 10 February Board meeting.

ISSUES:

Events

Sincere thanks are due to all of the organizers and participants in the various events held over the past two months. Their efforts add much to the summer experience for residents and visitors and help make Golden Bay the wonderful place that it is.

Community Board Budget

In the papers provided for the December 9 Board meeting there was an entry in the Board budget Statement dated October 2008 for one hour at a charge out rate of \$336. We have naturally questioned this charge but to date have been unsuccessful in defining exactly what the charge was beyond it being the CEO who has charged 'time' on unspecified days for unspecified 'jobs'. Anyone billed has an unalienable right to know precisely what the bill is for.

Council Costs

As Tasman District Rate payers we must seriously question the TDC cost structure in that we are:

- Charged high rates.

Then

- Charged high user charges for specific work.
- In addition to
- Underwriting a large and growing debt incurred by TDC.

The current Council management cost structure must be reviewed. Not so long ago we were served by a County Clerk with a small staff paid salaries relative to the income of council constituents. Nowadays council bureaucracies appear to seek to act like a corporation. This can only happen if constituent communities through our elected representatives let it happen by abdicating our governance responsibilities. We must rely on our Mayor and Councillors to assert their authority and to manage on our ratepayers' behalf. With another request for 'Richmond Office Alterations' considered on 17 December 2008 by Council 'in committee' we are concerned about the effect this will have on overheads if it is approved.

Ray Anderson, the enlightened CEO of Interface Corp., the world's largest commercial carpet manufacturer, reportedly calls 'the corporation' a "present day instrument of destruction" because of its compulsion to "externalize any cost that an unwary or uncaring public will allow it to externalize."

CEO Support for Community Boards

Our Tasman District Council CEO is employed under Local Government Act 2002 s 42 which sets out the role and responsibilities. Under s 42 2 (b) it is part of a Local Authority's CEO job in "*providing advice to members of the local authority and its community boards.*"

As we are presently precluded from seeking this advice out of concern of incurring a charge of \$336 per hour for doing so then our CEO is unable to do this part of his job. We will also not be able to fulfil our role and responsibilities if by doing so we incur exorbitant hourly rate charges being levied against our community by TDC.

Our roles and responsibilities are set out under LGA 2002 s 52 which requires us to:

- a) represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of the community: and*
- b) consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest and concern to the community board: and*
- c) maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community: and*
- d) prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community: and*
- e) communicate with community organizations and special interest groups within the community: and*
- f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority.*

In my opinion this charging regime is an attempt to prevent us from fulfilling our role and participation as elected community representatives.

Recommendation:

“That the CEO charge-out rate of \$336 per hour be reviewed by Council taking into account the legal employment responsibilities to provide advice to Community Boards under s 42 2 (b) of the Local Government Act 2002.”

Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

The three yearly Review of the LTCCP is currently underway at TDC. There have apparently been a large number of ‘in committee’ workshop-type meetings and discussions. As elected community representatives it would have been helpful for Community Boards to have been invited to be more part of the process. Apart from our providing the outcome of the eight Golden Bay community meetings to TDC and a brief meeting with the CEO and Strategic Planner on one occasion we have not been part of the process. This *is* a Council **Community Plan**.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that further opportunities are provided for the Board to have input into the development of the Annual Plan /Long Term Council Community Plan.”

SH60 signage

Following a community request the Board had taken up the issue of advisory speed signage on SH60 at Onekaka up with Montgomery Watson Harza (MWH). An inspection of the area was reportedly undertaken the week prior to the accident when Sam Bowker-Napp suffered fatal injuries whilst crossing the road. The MWH recommendation is for the installation of advisory signage. Whilst signage on its own cannot resolve dangerous situations it can help raise awareness and draw attention to them.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports the immediate erection of advisory speed signage for the corners entering Onekaka from the East.”

Takaka Flooding

The flood of 24 November has again drawn attention to the need for flood protection for Takaka Township. In an ideal world there would be stop banks for the river and the lower reaches of its tributaries as proposed by the 1981 design.

This was voted down in a 1985 poll. An alternative proposal for a bank around the Takaka Triangle of Commercial/Meihana/Motupipi Streets was received by

Council in 1997 but not put out for community consultation. Perhaps it is time for this to be dusted off and considered, especially with the new government speaking of support for infrastructure projects and modifying the Resource Management Act.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that the 1997 Takaka Triangle Stopbank proposal be re-considered by Council and updated with a view to putting it out for Community Consultation.”

Reduced Price of Oil and Oil products

The rapid rise in the oil price in the winter of 2008 led to dramatic increases in estimated roading costs. Now that the oil price has fallen by around 70% it is vital that Council estimates for the cost of work be reviewed and reduced accordingly. It is also vital to ensure that those responsible for accepting tenders take these reduced costs into account. It may well be that some additional work may be possible due to cost savings.

We have identified the short stretch of gravel road on Orion St behind the Collingwood Area School as a priority for sealing to mitigate the effects of dust on residences, the School and Playcentre. It would be helpful to see this work undertaken as soon as possible.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board seeks an assurance from Engineering Services that every effort is being made to secure the most favourable price for roading works taking into account overall falls in fuel prices and further requests that if there is funding available through savings that consideration be given to attending to additional projects such as the Orion Street seal extension.”

Community Board Conference

The 2009 NZ Community Boards Biennial Conference is being held in Christchurch in March. Being so accessible it would have been great to have a good attendance of Golden Bay and Motueka Board members. Unfortunately there has been no support from TDC for such attendance and Community Board budgets have no specific provision for this. Up until now the TDC ‘elected members training budget’ supported such attendance. As Chair I have registered for the conference and for workshops of direct relevance to our Board and District, namely:

- W7 “The value of Council/Community Board relationships for Community Leadership”.
- W5 “Best practice partnerships at the local level for the Environment”.
- W2 “Enhancing communities through local democracy”.

- W3 “Achieving best practice consultation with controversial projects”.

Tukurua Beach Access

It is disappointing to learn that access agreement previously reached does not provide for access to the beach by residents in the Tukurua area during the summer 1st Dec to 1st March. Especially with the hot still days we have been experiencing.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board renews efforts to negotiate access to the Tukurua Beach for residents in that locality.”

Questions by Board Members

From time to time Board members are requested by residents to ask questions on their behalf. This is part of our role and duty. To provide answers to service requests through us as elected representatives must be no different to providing information directly to residents.

Onekaka Speed Limit

Following long standing community concerns a meeting has been arranged between Onekaka residents and a New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). Following the passing of the Transport Amendment Bill in 2008 TDC as the Local Authority is also involved in State Highway decision making. Capital projects need to be included in three year plans before they can be undertaken. It is vital that we bring SH60 issues to the attention of TDC/NZTA as soon as possible.

Recommendation:

“That members of the Golden Bay Community Board attend the Onekaka Residents meeting with the New Zealand Transport Agency.”

Takaka Fire Fighting Water Supplies

The Board has been part of the Working Group from the out-set. We accept that the option under consideration is the best available to meet the Fire Service Code. However it does cost and we have made it clear throughout discussions that those who pay should have the say. This especially applies to those with properties in the CBD. It also needs to be pointed out that those with businesses in the CBD will likely pass the cost of their contribution on to customers and therefore the wider Golden Bay community will pay for whatever proposal is adopted either directly or indirectly. We must be mindful that there are many on low incomes in our community. It is vital that all who wish to express a view do so through the submission process in order to guide the Hearing Panel. Depending on the content of submissions received it may be that a formal

referendum of all property owners in the CBD and Takaka residential areas needs to be undertaken before a final decision is made.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board considers making a submission to the Takaka Firefighting Water supply proposal.”

Happy New Year

As we commence 2009, Best Wishes are extended to all for a Happy, Healthy New Year.

In the face of many challenges it is important that our community remains strong, caring and innovative.

In the words of the Golden Bay High School motto:

Ake Ake Kia Kaha.

Joe Bell