

## REPORT

**TO:** Golden Bay Community Board

**FROM:** J Bell, Chairperson

**REFERENCE:** E855

**SUBJECT:** Chairperson's Report – RGB10-02-01

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Meetings, activities and events attended during the past two months have included:

**December 1: Presentation of the Golden Bay Community Board submission on the Regional Performing Arts Centre proposals, Nelson,** together with Board member Leigh Gamby.

**December 2: Launch of Frank Soper's poetry book 'These Small Fields' at Takaka Library.**

**December 2: Releasing trees along Nelson Street boundary with Milnthorpe Park.**

**December 3: Integrated Health Group public consultation, Collingwood -** viewed plans of proposed integrated facility. Joined discussion with DHB and IHG representatives.

**December 3: Inspected work on new access and car parking area for Collingwood boat ramp**

**December 4: Met with Golden Bay Ward councillors** to discuss an aspect of the combined Community Board's submission to our petition to Parliament about target rating communities with Community Boards.

**December 5: Inspected eroding foreshore at Pakawau** following concerns expressed by a resident.

**December 5: Farewell for the Mapley family** who had been employed as managers of the Pakawau Camp and store which has closed. Best wishes are extended to Donna, Kyle and family for their move to Christchurch.

**December 6: Golden Bay Forest and Bird shared lunch and gathering at Ferntown -** rain prevented the canoeing planned for the Ruataniwha estuary.

**December 7: Golden Bay Promotions 25th anniversary celebrations, Takaka -** it was a great opportunity to review projects and proposals which have been successfully considered and undertaken over the years. I was a member of the committee 1993 – 99.

**December 8: Community Board meeting Takaka** - the Board provided morning tea for staff in appreciation of their work during the year. Unconfirmed minutes are available on: <http://www.tdc.govt.nz/pdfs/GB091208%20Minutes.pdf>

**December 8: Community Board workshop** - discussion about the combined Boards submission to our petition to Parliament about the targeted rating of Communities with Community Boards. We also further considered Board recommendation to Tasman District Council about the Ligar Bay baches on road reserve. Consideration of this continues.

**December 9: Golden Bay Community Board, Garden Competition judging** - visited gardens at Ligar Bay, Pohara, Bainham, Tukurua, Onekaka and Rangihaeata.

**December 10: Day 2 GBCB Garden Competition**, visiting gardens, Takaka township, Rototai, East Takaka. A total of 32 gardens were entered in 40 categories. Congratulations to all gardeners. Each garden is a credit and a 'winner' in its own right.

**December 14: Inspection of Anatori camp site** which has been a subject of complaint to the Board. Subsequently suggested to Tasman District Council a possible means of removal of the burnt out bus remains via contractors working in the area. Toilet being relocated and refurbished by DOC/TDC in the interim.

**December 15: Joan Whiting Trust public meeting, Collingwood** - letters subsequently sent to the Minister, 3 West Coast/Tasman MPs and 2 Nelson MPs raising the issue of inadequate funding for frail residents in Rest Homes.

**December 17: Golden Bay Writers Group, shared lunch, Takaka** - it was great to meet up with successful author and former Golden Bay resident, Helen McKinlay who has been enjoying great success with her 'Grandma' series of illustrated books.

**December 17: Opening of Aorere Arts Gallery, Collingwood** - this consortium of four artists is providing another fine attraction for Collingwood. The town is looking great with new buildings and frontages together with the boat ramp parking and access improvements and new sewerage pumping station.

Work has paused on the latter for the busy summer period. Following enquiries it was ascertained that the old sump, lids and padlocks will be removed to enable the safe walking access to be restored along the verge behind Beachcomber motel.

**December 19: Christmas Parade, Takaka** - an excellent event well patronized by participants and spectators alike. The Takaka Market was another successful event following the Parade.

**December 23: Opening of Labyrinth Park** - followed the completion of a new car park and an initial access point. Paths are being re-metalled, with weed control and selective trimming. Dave Whittaker's cousin Ewan McPherson was present to cut the ribbon.

**January 2:** Collingwood Market Day - held in the Memorial Hall due to rain.

**January 3:** Kaituna Market day - held in a marquee due to rain.

**January 3:** Rockville Museum Steam Up Day.

**January 4:** Aorere Raft race. A strong wind brought the craft more or less to the finish line. It is disappointing that some spectators are still casting offensive matter at contestants and into the river despite requests from the organizers not to do so.

**January 8:** Craig Potton's 'Wild River's' slide show, Golden Bay Community Centre.

**January 9:** Jazz on the Village Green sponsored by Tasman District Council; an excellent performance.

**January 10:** Sand Sculptures Pohara Beach. Held in marginal weather conditions; imaginative sculptures were a credit to the participants.

**January 16:** A & P Show Takaka. Served on the Tasman District Council stand 10am – 12noon. An improved location saw many more visitors to the stand. Some observations:

- Balloons were very appealing to the children.
- Dry Crust Communications is well regarded.
- The Tasman Collection is well known and regarded.
- Walk Tasman and Cycle Tasman booklets likewise.
- Hardly anyone could answer the questions in the questionnaire without assistance.

**January 16:** Powhiri welcome for cruise ship Clipper Odyssey at Port Tarohe. Participated in the ceremony which included an impressive Maori challenge. It was great to see the cruise ship in the harbour. Passengers subsequently enjoyed attractions around the Bay. Having visitors arrive by sea as well as by walking track, road and air is a helpful addition for our visitor industry.

**January 17:** Cardboard Boat Race, Tata Beach. Another well attended event with colourful, creative constructions.

**January 18:** Community Board workshop meeting Takaka. Discussed Ligar Bay options.

**January 18:** Viewed the wonderful Robin Slow painting commissioned by the Board for the Golden Bay Service Centre meeting room. The painting will be framed by Lance Trolle.

**January 21:** Worked on a sculpture for the Milnthorpe Park Sculpture Symposium.

**January 22:** Placed sculpture in Milnthorpe Park in preparation for the public event.

**January 23:** Milnthorpe Park Scenic Reserve “A Way with the Faeries’ event comprising treasure hunt, music and storytelling in the Park. Part of ‘Heart Art’ this magical event was very well attended by children of all ages.

**January 24:** Golden Bay Cultural Food and Wine Festival Pohara. Another well supported event showcasing Golden Bay food, beverages and music.

**January 25:** Viewing the placement of the new painting and the Abel Tasman Quilt in the Service Centre Meeting room.

**January 25:** Agenda setting for the 9 February Board Meeting.

## **ISSUES**

### **Submissions**

Golden Bay Community Board submissions have been made to Aquaculture and Walking Access Strategy proposals.

### **Golden Bay Stream care**

Funding of \$5,000 for this year and next has been kindly granted by Collingwood Marine Farmers Consortium to Golden Bay Stream Care towards their work in providing plants, planting and releasing in the Aorere Catchment.

### **TDC Website**

A web manager has been appointed to operate the Tasman District Council website. Ideas for improvement are being sought. These can be sent to:

[tama.easton@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:tama.easton@tasman.govt.nz)

### **Broadband**

The Community Board is supporting improved broadband services for Golden Bay. A basic survey is available on the following link:

Survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WZRHTXV>

### **Recycling**

There have been problems with the Western Bay recycling collection not being completed on collection day for the past four weeks. In discussion with a Smart Environmental representative following the lodging of a Service Request through the Golden Bay Service Centre, there have been two reasons for this. Capacity on the truck and the risk of drivers exceeding their driving hours due to the extended time the run is taking.

These are matters which must be taken into account in the contract and the performance of it. It is well known that Golden Bay is a holiday destination and that volumes of recyclables and refuse increase during peak holiday times. It is difficult

to say that there are more recyclables this year than previous years when the service has seemed able to cope better.

Accordingly it is recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that the performance of the recyclables contract be taken up by TDC with Smart Environmental.*

*Further: “that the Board recognizes and appreciates the efforts of Golden Bay Rubbish Collection Ltd in picking up the shortfall”.*

### **Congratulations**

These are due to several people including Motueka Councillor Jack Inglis who was named as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Years Honours List among his other recognitions including Nelsonian of the Year and also Claire Prebble for her continuing success in creative art. It is recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board write to Jack Inglis, Claire Prebble and others as appropriate congratulating them on their deserved recognition and success”.*

### **Events**

Community thanks and congratulations are also due to the organizers, helpers and participants for the many community events held during the summer. Such events add ‘colour’ to the Bay and are a great attraction for locals and visitors alike. We can all be proud of our wonderfully creative and innovative community.

### **Lower Gibbs Road**

The ‘No Exit - turning difficult’ sign is not being observed by some motorists causing problems for themselves and the resident at the end of the road. An additional sign has been requested.

### **Pohara Walkway/cycleway**

The long awaited project from Pohara Camp to the Hall along the seaward side of the road is getting closer. Plans are currently being re-drawn and the Board will be consulted on them.

### **Public Toilets**

The apparent inconsistent consideration of the need for public toilets across the District is of concern. There needs to be a policy developed for these. With a comparatively relaxed view of ‘Freedom Camping’ together with a need to cater for growing numbers of day visitors, toilets do need to be provided at popular places. It is therefore recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Tasman District Council suggesting the need for a District policy to be developed for responding to the need for public toilet facilities.”*

## **Vehicles on Beaches**

It is great that this issue is being taken up by Tasman District Council. However, it was very disappointing to read the comments attributed to Cr Higgins in the Environment and Planning Committee Minutes of 11 December 2009 that the cost of administering a 'Vehicles on Beaches' bylaw be added to the Community Board Targeted Rate.

There have been many costs shared across the District under the 'Think District' policy which Golden Bay has not benefited from directly.

If the 'Think District' policy is to be abandoned, then the benefits and repaid loans etc enjoyed by other Wards during the past 21 years under the 'Think District' policy need to be re-calculated and re-apportioned. An example is attached. It is therefore recommended:

*"That the Golden Bay Community Board supports the investigation being undertaken by TDC into the development of a by-law to help control the use of vehicles on Tasman District beaches".*

## **Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**

**'Yesterday'** we look back to March when the NZ Community Board Conference was held in Christchurch. One of the key-note speakers was Dale Williams, Mayor of Otorohanga. He gave an inspirational talk about how they turned their area around through inclusiveness, especially of the young people. He provided a pyramid sketch model of Otorohanga governance. The ratepayer is at the top; then the mayor and 'elected members' (councillors **and** Community Boards); then the CEO and staff in sequence.

Dale advised that councillors and Community Board members are regarded as equals for receipt of information and involvement. All are considered to be 'councillors'.

We were also urged by Prime Minister John Key and Local Government Minister Rodney Hide "to have governance as close to the individual as possible".

**'Today'**, it is interesting to read some Government policy proposals, such as trying to change the law to legalise targeted rating of communities with Community Boards, and to form companies to own ratepayer assets which will result in the opposite of "having governance as close to the individual as possible".

Golden Bay and Motueka Community Boards are still waiting for the delegations recommended in 2007 by the Local Government Commission. We can also fairly ask "what does the 'Otorohanga pyramid' model look like for our District at present"?

**'Tomorrow'**, 2010, is Local Elections year. There are 9 months left of this term for there to be meaningful steps towards empowering local communities so that local decisions can be made in a responsive, timely manner. Local Governance, like all

governance, should be about having the ability to make decisions “as close to the individual as possible”.

Woodrow Wilson once said *“When I resist therefore, concentration of power, I am resisting the process of death, because the concentration of power is what always precedes the destruction of human initiative, and therefore, of human energy.”*

It is up to all of us to ensure we, and our elected representatives, are not side-lined in decision making.

Best wishes for a happy inclusive New Year are extended to all.

Joe Bell

26<sup>th</sup> January 2010