

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board

FROM: The Chairperson

REFERENCE: E855

DATE: 6 September 2010

SUBJECT: For 14 September 2010 Meeting – RGB10-09-01

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

2 August: Agenda setting for the 10 August Board meeting

3 August: Meeting with Secretary/Manager of Milnthorpe Park regarding AGM Minutes and follow up action.

6 August: Along with Board member McLellan met with Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) students from South East Asia in the Golden Bay Office meeting room. Discussed local governance and responded to previously supplied questions. A walking tour of part of Takaka was followed by afternoon tea. The visitors hold positions in Government departments in their own countries. Thanks are extended to Margaret Bell for providing the afternoon tea.

8 August: Public day to celebrate Labyrinth Park including a walking tour. The reopening of this wonderful area is a credit to the Park Society and helpers.

8 August: Opening of the Pohara Pedestrian and Pedaller Promenade. This path extends from the Reserve east of the Pohara Camp through to the verge opposite the Pohara Bowling Green. John Ward-Holmes opened proceedings with a Waiata followed by speeches and the cutting of the ribbon by Jane Baird representing Wednesday Walkers and Peter Woods representing Pohara residents. Victoria Davis snipped a bicycle tube stretched across the path as a representative for cyclists. It is great to see this project completed having commenced its gestation in 1998. Fulton Hogan staff did a great job in its construction.

10 August: Community Board meeting Takaka. Unconfirmed minutes are available on the Tasman District Council website.

<http://www.tasman.govt.nz/council/council-meetings/community-boards/golden-bay-community-board-meetings/>

10 August: Funeral service for Doug Thorneycroft. Sympathy is extended to Doug's family and friends.

11 August: Visit to 'Naked Possum' Café at Kaituna. Viewed the new seminar room which is now available for meetings and meals. This is another wonderful Golden Bay facility in a lovely setting. Also visited the 'Labyrinth Memorial Walk' and the first part of the Kaituna track to the 'Gold Workings'.

15 August: Inspected Air Nelson's \$12m, 5000m² new hangar at Nelson Airport

17 August: Presented the Golden Bay Community Board submission to the TDC gaming policy review together with Board members Leigh Gamby and Karen Brookes, Richmond

17 August: Residents meeting Onekaka Hall regarding SH60 issues

18 August: Doc Community Forum Takaka

Doc update items included:

- Possum control. Low numbers in Wakamarama range has enabled postponement of proposed control. Waingaro Valley possums control will occur mid- 2011.
- Mountain biking track Canaan Downs nearly complete. Family biking day planned for Sunday 12 September.
- Conservation Week activities include a talk on whitebait and freshwater fish; talk by Craig Potton; walk on Harwood's Farm Upper Takaka; and planting at Paynes Ford on 29 August and Motupipi Spit on 4 September.
- Firewood shed at Cobb hostel repaired and new furniture for the hostel built.
- American students worked as volunteers at Totaranui.
- A juvenile Andrews beaked whale died on Collingwood beach and was sent to Te Papa.
- Dune Lake and Greenhills Flats at Puponga Farm Park fenced off from stock.
- Fence erected at Canaan to exclude stock from western forest margin.
- Weka survey at Totaranui undertaken. Nine pairs there. Weka also sighted Wharawharangi, Awaroa and Gorge Creek.
- Mt Stevens track has been cut.
- Totaranui homestead interior work finished, work on sub floor underway.
- Totaranui Camp site ballot has attracted 777 applications.

Agenda items included:

- One of the interpretation panels on the Pukung Farm Park lookout has become discoloured and needs replacing.
- Questions asked about the proposed rebuild of the Torrent Bay Wharf when it has been so difficult to have the small Golden Bay wharves maintained.

18 August: Lodged nomination for election to Golden Bay Community Board

20 August: Closing of nominations Local Elections. As there were 5 nominations for the 4 Golden Bay Community Board seats I withdrew my nomination.

This withdrawal means a Board election is not necessary and results in a saving of \$14,400 to the Golden Bay community. This is the sum we are charged by Tasman District Council for the 'cost of elections' through the iniquitous targeted rate. (\$4,800pa x 3). Out of all of the Tasman District Council elected representatives, only the Motueka and Golden Bay communities with Community Boards are 'target rated' for the 'cost of elections'. We have taken this issue up with Tasman District Council without success to date but have now been informed that this may be reviewed.

I wish to thank Don Mead and Sheryl Nalder for their nomination and for understanding when I withdrew.

I would also like to thank all of the wonderful people who have contributed to the well-being of our community during the past 15 years. Especially Board Members Carolyn McLellan who has served 12 years, Leigh Gamby (6) and Karen Brookes (3). Thank you to the Golden Bay Service Centre staff who have been a pleasure to work with.

I wish those elected all the best for the forthcoming term.

26 August: Together with Board members Gamby and Brookes presented the Community Board submission on the Local Government Act Amendment Bill to the Local Government and Environment Select Committee via conference call with Parliament.

27 August: Met with Milnthorpe resident, forestry expert Dr Don Mead, regarding GPS plotting and marking of certain trees in Milnthorpe Park.

27 August: Met with two Wainui Bay residents following the request by Tasman District Council Environment and Planning manager in an effort to find a

way to resolve some resource management land use planning matters in the area. I attended as Board representative for Environment and Planning.

27 August: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful AGM Onekaka Hall. Previous committee re-elected. I have served on this committee for 15 years as the Tasman District Council and Community Board representative. The main projects for the year have been with riparian plantings including paying for a survey and erecting fences; trees for babies (the family of each new baby receives a Kowhai tree); Clean Up NZ Week and on-going maintenance of previous plantings.

29 August: Drafting a submission in response to the Tasman District Council CEO's report on Community Board Delegations which is to be discussed by Council on 2nd September.

30 August: Community Board Workshop on our submission to the Tasman District Council staff report regarding delegations, Takaka.

30 August: Public Meeting to consider a Sports Facility at the Golden Bay Recreation Park together with Board members McLellan and Brookes. This well-attended meeting provided an opportunity for sports groups to get together and decide what the gaps in sporting facilities are and how best for these gaps to be met. As always, it must be actual need which drives the building of facilities and not the carrot of a pool of borrowed money being made available through the TDC facilities rate.

31 August: Completion of submission on Tasman District Council staff report regarding 'delegations'.

31 August: Received news of the proposed closing of Joan Whiting Rest Home on 30 November. It is an indictment on our societal values that the Government 'found' \$1.6-1.8b to bail a failed finance company which, in part, had been speculating on property but said it couldn't find a fraction of that to keep a Rest Home going until the Golden Bay integrated health facility is built.

1 September: Completion of Golden Bay Community Board submission to Council

1 September: Representations made to various parties including MP's regarding Joan Whiting Rest Home

2 September: Full Council Meeting, Richmond. Together with Board members McLellan, Gamby and Brookes, spoke during public forum. Prior to this meeting it was very disappointing to observe that the number of pokie machines was not capped at the number currently in use. In my view the Council displayed a lack of will and social responsibility.

I consider that the staff report on delegations to Community Boards was not helpful and failed to address all the issues. This long awaited report failed to meet any of the nine criteria in the Tasman District Council Code of Conduct for quality of policy advice. A copy of the report is available on:

<http://www.tasman.govt.nz/council/council-meetings/standing-committees/full-council-meetings/?path=/EDMS/Public/Meetings/FullCouncil/2010-09-02>

A copy of the Board submission is attached. This needs to be read in conjunction with the report.

We were promised so much in the Local Government reforms of 1988-89. For example, the Tasman District Council Transition committee promised “a lean machine with a strong voice that Golden Bay would benefit from with a fair share of decision-making”

And:

“Golden Bay and Motueka are to have mandatory Ward committees (Community Boards) with the powers of district community councils which, according to the Local Government Commission, grants them “wide powers to carry out functions required of them by their parent territorial authority.”

Yeah. Right! We are still waiting for that twenty-one years later. Given the historical background it is no wonder that there have been tensions as successive community boards have tried to come to grips with the council.

2 & 3 September: Discussions with, and representations to, MPs and others regarding the proposed closure of Joan Whiting Rest Home. Letter sent to the Minister of Health, Tony Ryall.

4 September: 7.1 Scale Canterbury Earthquake. This event brought to mind the full scale exercise which was held at the end of the March 2009 NZ Community Board’s Conference in Christchurch. We were impressed by the exercise and it is great that the city **had** taken steps to ‘be prepared’ as far as was possible. ‘Being prepared’ is a vital step that all communities can take. It is particularly sad to see the huge impact of the earthquake on the Kaiapoi community through ‘liquefaction’ of the ground. This community were wonderful hosts for the 2009 ‘Small Towns’ conference last September and it is sad to see features of their town such as historic Blackwell’s Department Store (1921), Kaiapoi River foot bridge and the Railway Station (c1880) so badly damaged. Kaiapoi received the NZ ‘Beautiful Towns Award’ in 2007. Our sympathy goes out to them.

4 September: 70th Birthday celebration for Shirley Nalder, Collingwood. Shirley is a past Golden Bay County councillor and a wonderful stalwart

Chairperson of the Collingwood Hall Committee on which she has served since 1986. Husband Dave also serves on the committee as secretary. Congratulations Shirley on reaching this milestone and thank you for all of the work you do on behalf of the community.

6 September: Agenda setting for the 14 September Board meeting

COUNCIL ISSUES

Golden Bay Wharves

We see in the minutes of the Engineering Services Committee 19 August (item 4.1.5) where Council reportedly said it would not be upgrading structures it does not own.

We do not know what structures this comment refers to but it should not apply to the small wharves in Golden Bay at Mangarakau, Collingwood, Milnthorpe and Waitapu.

These assets are ethically council coastal structures and were formerly listed as Tasman District Council assets with user charges and the like. When the wharves came up for renewal of registration Council failed to do so and they have ended up with DoC by default. This is the same situation as someone abandoning a vehicle on the side of the road which then becomes the liability of the roading authority by default.

We do not like it when that happens and abandoning these wharves by Tasman District Council is morally and ethically no different.

The other issue is that the Tasman Bay wharves at Mapua and Torrent Bay are continuing to be maintained by Council.

This is unfair when the 'Think District' policy is taken into account. Many current staff and councillors appear unaware of these facts.

Golden Bay has some funding set aside to improve these assets from the Reserves Financial Contributions account. The wharves need to be re-registered by Tasman District Council and properly maintained. There is scope for local groups to take over day-to-day management of them as is done with Hall and Reserves committees once they are bought up to scratch.

It is therefore recommended:

"That the Golden Bay Community Board takes every opportunity to inform Tasman District Council about the facts regarding the moral and ethical

ownership of the Mangarakau, Collingwood, Milnthorpe and Waitapu wharves and requests that the wharves be re-registered by Tasman District Council and properly maintained. Further, that community enquiries be made about forming local management committees once they have been bought up to scratch.”

Targeted Rate and Cost of Elections

The Golden Bay Community Board has previously raised the issue of legality of charging the Golden Bay community for the ‘cost of elections in the iniquitous targeted rate’. We are charged \$400.00 per month, \$4,800.00 per annum, \$14,400.00 per term for ‘cost of elections’. The Local Electoral Act s147 (1) states that “the local authority must pay for the cost of elections.” Ratepayers already pay for the cost of governance through the general rate. There are elections held regardless of whether there are Community Boards or not. Apart from legality and ethics this charge is also unfairly applied. Motueka has more than double the population of Golden Bay but is charged the same rate. By dividing the number of voting papers issued (2007 figures used) into \$14,400.00, the calculation works out to be \$4.00 per voting paper for Golden Bay and \$1.89 per voting paper for Motueka.

This charge may now be reviewed, however, it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board points out to Tasman District Council and other relevant agencies that the Council charge for the cost of elections is illegal, unjust and unfair and advise the cost of \$4.00 per voting paper for Golden Bay and \$1.89 for Motueka as further evidence.”

Tasman District Council Website

The recently launched re-vamped website has resulted in a huge loss of access to information. It is impossible to access previous year’s Agendas, Report and Minutes. The following is the response from Council staff regarding this issue: “We have yet to put the older meeting agendas, reports, minutes etc on the new website. Unfortunately the old website stored these documents with no rhyme or reason so we have been unable to do a direct import/migration of the old archives. Getting the archives up (and making them searchable) has been identified as a priority on the new website but because of the huge number of files we want to make sure we get this right, and do it in the most efficient and accurate way possible. In the meantime if you need to access any minutes etc please send a request through to info@tasman.govt.nz

This has been a huge loss to those who need to research matters and prepare factual reports. It is also a huge loss to openness, transparency and accountability. During ‘consultation’ we made it clear to staff that web records need to be retained for at least six years because many projects extend over the life of two or more terms of council. It has been very concerning that this has not

happened yet. It is also very difficult to transfer web links now as evidenced in this Report for providing a link to the August 2010 Board Meeting Minutes.

While recognising that this matter is being given urgency by Council staff it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board again raises the vital issue of access to public records via the internet with Tasman District Council and other relevant agencies if required.”

Takaka Market

It seems that agencies from outside of the Bay are bent on trying to close down successful ventures here.

- 15 June 2010 The Board responded to a TDC property officer request for comments about the Takaka Market. We supported renewal of the license with some sensible suggested conditions.
- 16 June the Council Transportation manager supported our comments and asked the Property Officer to include them in any future lease agreement.
- 16 July the Board was approached by the operator of the Market who had received a very blunt letter stating: *“The market lease has expired and Council will not be renewing the license. There will be no market there from now on.”*
- The Board then took this issue up with Council’s Community Services manager.

Council’s Property Manager subsequently asked if the Board would monitor the market. We said we would and that this could be a delegation to the Board. The operator of the market still has not had the license renewed as at 1 September 2010 although he has been given a temporary license to continue operating until 1 November 2010. The market has proved to be a success and the license needs to be renewed.

Therefore it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board reiterates support for the renewal of the Takaka Market License with the conditions suggested by the Board on 16 June 2010 included in it”.

Natural Burial areas

We have received a request from a resident seeking consideration for areas additional to Rototai Cemetery for natural burials. Council’s Reserves Manager

has asked that the Community Board formally makes this request to Community Services. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests Community Services to consider additional areas for natural burial sites including East Takaka Cemetery.”

Credit Card Purchase

Recent publicity about Tasman District Council credit card purchases reported the purchase of a book ‘The Art of War’ by a Council employee on his Tasman District Council card. (Nelson Mail 10 July 2010)

It is difficult to see how an employee of a community-owned, non-profit, service organization is justified in buying a copy of the ‘Art of War’ on the Council credit card.

A synopsis of this book is scary. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Art_of_War Especially the quotations: (chapter 1, paragraph 18) states: “*All warfare is based on deception*” or, alternatively: “*Never will those who wage war tire of deception*”. Who does the employee plan to be at war with? Staff? Elected representatives? Residents and ratepayers? Neighbouring Councils?

Councillors must enquire about the justification for this purchase. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that the Tasman District Mayor and Councillors enquire into the reported purchase of the book ‘The Art of War’ by a TDC employee and seek an explanation to be provided to the community about this purchase.”

Golden Bay Community Board Budget

The Golden Bay Community Board again prudently managed its budget resulting in a 35% saving on projections. This resulted in a year end credit balance of \$16,213.00. Council did reduce the rate for the 2010/2011 financial year based on the assumption of a credit balance of \$10,000 and the credit over and above this will be carried forward to the 2011/2012 financial year.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board request that any credit balance in their account be credited to future years Board’s budgets.”

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Portable Stage

During the August meeting a letter from GB Recreation worker, Dave Myall, enquiring about funding for a portable stage was discussed. This matter was left to lie on the table pending further information. Leigh Gamby was to seek this from Mr. Myall.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board considers the funding request from the Golden Bay community recreation worker for a trailer-based portable stage taking into account issues of storage, maintenance and other running costs such as warrant of fitness, insurance and registration and usefulness.”

Broadband

Things are now reportedly moving on proposals to improve the broadband service in rural areas including bringing fibre optic cable over the Takaka Hill using existing poles.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board steps up efforts as and when required to help our community to obtain improved broad band services in Golden Bay.”

Joan Whiting Rest Home

It is tragic news that the Joan Whiting Rest Home is proposed to close on November 30. It is a criminal act to leave Golden Bay without the vital facility of a Rest Home. Especially when the notice came on the same day as news that the Government (us) is funding the \$1.6-1.8b bail out of a finance company which collapsed because it lent money on risky speculative ventures.

A rest home is an essential service in our community. It is not a speculative venture. It deserves adequate funding.

We must continue to press the National/Act government to keep it going until the integrated health project is sorted. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board urges the Government to make a decision on the Integrated Health Project for Golden Bay as soon as possible and provide bridging funds for the Rest Home facilities until the integrated facilities are built.”

Canterbury Earthquake

Although there is probably little we can do as a Board apart from offering our sympathy and moral support I would like to recommend:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board sends messages of support to the Christchurch and Kaiapoi communities expressing sympathy for the huge property losses during the recent earthquakes”.

PEOPLE

Roy Reid

Golden Bay resident Mr Roy Reid has recently been elected as National President of Grey Power. This is an important role in a very large organization. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board congratulates Roy Reid in his election as National President of Grey Power and wishes him all the best for his term in office.”

Alistair Baker

Golden Bay resident Alistair Baker was one of the soldiers recently wounded in Afghanistan. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Alistair Baker wishing him all the best for full recovery from his injuries.”

Bruce Ferguson

Long standing Kaihoka resident Bruce Ferguson passed away recently. Bruce was a former Golden Bay County and Nelson Bays United Council councillor. I worked with Bruce when he was United Council representative on the Nelson Region Fisheries Liaison committee which I chaired. It took tremendous travel commitment for Bruce to serve on a Nelson-based council when he was farming at Kaihoka. I was unable to attend the funeral service due to another commitment. Our sympathy is extended to the Ferguson family.

Alan Kilgour

Alan recently received a TDC Outstanding Community Award for his voluntary community contributions through the Pohara Boat Club, Golden Bay marine search and rescue, St John ambulance (as a driver for 22 years) and long service with Takaka Lions Club.

It is therefore recommended:

“THAT the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Alan Kilgour congratulating him on his Outstanding Community Award”

Joe Bell