

# STAFF REPORT

**TO:** Motueka Community Board  
**FROM:** Service Centres Manager  
**REFERENCE:** E859  
**DATE:** 11 January 2007  
**SUBJECT:** January 2007 Report

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First of all happy new year to all Community Board members. I am typing this report whilst on holiday! Apologies for brevity and thanks to Valerie for her help (as always).

## Drag Racing

The second drag meet of the year scheduled to be held on 13 January 2007 was cancelled due to inclement weather. This was an appropriate and sensible decision as although there was a brief lull in the rain for a few hours the runway would not have dried, posing a significant safety risk for drag car use. The Nelson Drag Racing Association made the call to cancel well in advance of the 10.00 am deadline stipulated in their consents and in fact there was no closure of the aerodrome on 13 January 2007 at any time caused by drag racing activities. The event was rescheduled the next day (Sunday 14 January 2007) as provided in the consents and the meeting, although a low-key affair, went well with no significant issues occurring. The event finished at 3.35 pm which meant that the airport was able to be reopened at 4.45 pm - well in advance of the stipulated 6.30 pm deadline.

## Representation Review

I attended some parts of the Commissioner hearings in Richmond and Takaka. I felt that the Commissioners were very professional and thorough in their consideration of all submissions. The outcome of the appeals is to be made by the end of March 2007.

## Iwi Liaison

The Board has already given positive signals about having regular (quarterly) meetings with iwi now that the hui provided by the Motueka Iwi Resource Management Kommittee (MIRMAK) held at Te Awhina Marae now no longer take place.

Local tangata whenua have also expressed an interest and desire to have regular meetings with the Board regarding local issues.

To get things underway I would recommend that the Board agrees to schedule meetings with Iwi as follows:

Meetings: at Motueka Council Office - February and August  
at Te Awhina Marae – May and November

The Board, in agreeing to any meeting schedule, will need to consider appropriate dates and times. A set schedule, such as the second Tuesday of the assigned month, with meetings commencing at an appropriate time in the evening. Any agreement made by the Board will of course have to go back to iwi for their consideration and agreement.

### **Holiday Helpers**

I have noticed that during the busy holiday period there is an apparent lack of information for holidaymakers walking the main street. Things such as where is the nearest chemist, public toilets, phone box type of questions. I believe in some towns the use of 'town ambassadors' has proven popular and effective. Perhaps the Board might like to consider a similar option for Motueka during the period say from Boxing Day to mid-January. This may be an initiative that either a service club or Our Town Motueka might like to get involved with. "Holiday Helpers" could wear distinctive Motueka T-Shirts and would have information to help and assist our visitors. Perhaps a trial next year may be considered?

### **Traffic Congestion**

Motueka at the peak of the holiday season, as usual, is 'seething', not only with pedestrians, but with motorists. Whilst the traffic jams might add some frustration, particularly to local drivers, it is to be acknowledged that the town is significantly boosted by the influx of holidaymakers. Noticeable this year was the courtesy exercised by drivers to allow others to enter traffic lanes so as to keep things moving.

### **Didymo in Golden Bay**

The identification of didymo (otherwise referred to as 'Rock Snot') in Golden Bay should also be of concern to this Board. The Motueka and Riwaka Rivers are internationally significant for trout fishing and the effect of didymo to these rivers ecology would be devastating for the fishing sport. The smothering effect of the organism also has a major adverse effect on native fish species and other in-river organisms.

### **Streetscaping Ropes**

Finally, I would like to thank Bob Cooke and his assistant who, at the eleventh hour, did such a fine job putting in some temporary ropes to replace the rotted ropes that were removed late last year.

Whilst the white polypropylene ropes leave a lot to be desired aesthetically, they have been effective in reducing jay-walking. Engineering Department has been asked for an update on the replacement of permanent ropes at the briefing to be held at the February 2007 Board meeting.

## **Board Briefings**

The following are suggestions for staff briefings to be tabled at the meeting.

February 2007 – Engineering Department

March 2007 – Joseph Thomas (Motueka water augmentation)

April 2007 – Eric Verstappen (Port Motueka, subject to consents proceeding)

May 2007 – Glenn Thorn (Deck's Reserve)

If Board members have any other suggestions for the year, please bring them along.

Bob Askew  
Service Centres Manager