

# REPORT

**TO:** GB Community Board  
**FROM:** The Chairperson  
**REFERENCE:** E855  
**DATE:** 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Report for September Meeting

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Activities, events and meetings attended during the past Month included:

**1 August: Community Board Workshop** to discuss Port Tarakohe financial accounts.

**1 August: Agenda setting for 8<sup>th</sup> August Community Board meeting**

**3 August: Nelson PHO meeting to discuss free Health Check pilot project** for Golden Bay. Attended as a Community Board Representative.

**3 August: Attended public meeting to hear Dr Russell Norman**, recently elected Green Party Co-leader, speaking on the need for communities to make changes in the light of rising fuel prices and the likelihood of shortages created by 'peak oil' and lack of world refining capacity.

**4 August: Golden Bay Community Board by-election** polling closed and Mik Symmons announced as the successful candidate. Congratulations to Mik and thanks are extended to both candidates who stood and enabled voters to have a choice. The election was fairly close and resulted in a polling return of 60.5% which is high for a single seat by-election.

**7 August: Community Board Workshop** to discuss Port Tarakohe financial information Staff report and Board response.

**8 August Community Board Meeting Collingwood** - new member, Mik Symmons welcomed to the Board and sworn in.

**8 August: Takaka Valley and Lowland Soil Survey** public meeting Takaka. Presentation by Andrew Burton and Iain Campbell. Questions from the floor concluded the evening. The information provided in the report will be very useful in land use planning and consent consideration.

## **10 August: Special full Council meeting to discuss Representation Review**

Council resolved to move away from the Status quo despite the vast bulk of submissions which supported this as the tried and true best option by removing one Councillor from Lakes – Murchison Ward and adding another to Richmond Ward in an effort to try meet the +/- 10% guideline. This upset those who supported the status quo especially the Lakes – Murchison councillors who then sought time to consider the option of a community board, or boards, for their Ward. Discussion on community boards in the Representation Review was then held over to a later date.

**11 August: Joined most Board members in meeting with a party of 16 Asean Government Officials** who have been attending Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology. We explained how Local Government works in Golden Bay and answered questions on a range of related issues. A photo is attached.

**14 August: Attended meeting of Community group representatives regarding Bonaparte Diamond Mines** approved prospecting application. Expressed the need for Community concerns to be raised at each step of the three stage, divide and rule process. The company now has to apply to DoC for access to the Seabed and Foreshore and to TDC for a Resource Consent. We have registered our interest with DoC as an 'interested party' and now need to do this with TDC also.

**14 August: Funeral for Clem Mead:** Clem had been an agriculture advisor and farmer and then a Golden Bay retailer and nurseryman. He had participated in several Golden Bay community organizations and was a great supporter of the Community Board and the need for it to work well in the interests of the Bay. He expressed strong opposition to any suggestion of reduced representation.

**15 August: Facilitated Takaka and Eastern Golden Bay planning meetings at Pohara and Takaka** together with TDC Policy Planner Sonya Leusink. Both meetings were well attended with interesting discussions, comments and points made and noted.

**16 August: Golden Bay Community Focus group meeting with Work and Income** representative Lianne Nichol. Discussed employment and training opportunities in aquaculture and horticulture. Both being investigated further. Low levels of Golden Bay unemployment currently.

**16 August: Met with Service Centres Manager** in his role as recently appointed Port Tarakohe administration manager to discuss Port Tarakohe concerns.

**18 August: Met Chris Auchinvole, National List MP West Coast/Tasman** together with most other Board members. We discussed a range of issues including Tourism (levies on foreign tourists suggested), short comings in Local Electoral Act, Representation Review, Bonaparte seabed mining proposal and need for wider consultation opportunities in consideration of this, aquaculture development, need for a strong Coastal Policy Statement, Housing Innovation Fund.

**18 August: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful AGM Onekaka.** Previous committee and office holders re-elected.

**21 August Community Board Workshop** to discuss recently compiled Financial Statement received from TDC Chief Executive Officer and to finalise Board response to Tarohe financial situation.

**22 August: Community Whanau meeting.** Power point presentation by Stephen Nalder of 'Child Youth and Family' regarding issues and programmes. Statistics on child abuse are really scary. Reported abuse increased from 29,560 to 66,210 cases pa over the past 5 years.

A briefing was also provided by Margaret Clark Operations Manager from Plunket. Shared community notices.

**22 August: Met with other members to** finalise funding applications for Abel Tasman Heritage Quilt purchase.

### **23 August: DOC Community Forum Takaka**

**Update topics coverage included:** 10 more weka released at Totoranui, 4 with transmitters. The 7 from the previous release have stayed in the same territories with most paired up; possum control Goulard Downs ground based baiting over 2000ha underway; Deer 'learning group' – a research programme has been introduced to interested GB residents, a 3600ha study block and a similar size 'control area' established in Anatoki catchment. The effects of the deer on plant species to be studied; ATNP submission hearing set down for 24 August in Takaka; Hare, possum and deer damage to native sand plants Farewell Spit reported; rare Grey's Beaked Whale found washed up Kahurangi Coast; Whitebait season under way – patrols being undertaken; plastic liners replaced in Taupo Pt (ATNP) fire pond; steady bookings for Totaranui (900 capacity) 80% full from Christmas – January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Agenda issues included:**

Te Waikoropupu Springs water cress weed growth; mirror cleanliness; gum tree and gorse removal issues raised; Pupu Hydro walkway interpretation panel replacements and orientation sign requested, reported that these are under action; concern expressed about track widening reported and non-compliance issues with water right; Bonaparte mining – access permit required from DOC, no application received to date; Paynes Ford sign – misleading 'Private Property' sign to be removed; Clean up NZ Week – facilitated by Keep Golden Bay Beautiful – commencing 18<sup>th</sup> September; Vehicles on beaches - several recent incidents at Motupipi – Pohara, excessive speed, noise disturbance controls needed; Mt Stevens track start and carpark – concern about condition of these, DOC is proposing to bring end of Browns Hut road up to standard and then handing this over to TDC; Goulard Downs Hut - concerns about fire screen; Plans to install coal range at Heaphy Hut questioned – plenty of wood available without carting coal in; Pakawau 'dog control' sign – no action yet, Motueka 'Kumaras' type sign suggested because generic sign wasn't deemed suitable.

**24 August: Attended full Council meeting Richmond:** Addressed Council during Public Forum and reiterated that the only grounds for abolishing a Community Board are that the Community no longer exists or that the Community no longer wants a Board. Neither of these 'reasons' apply for the Motueka and Golden Bay Boards. This advice was to no avail. Council voted in a bizarre 8-6 division to abolish community boards. This decision was a real shock because it confirmed a phone call from a councillor two days prior which reported a pre-determination that 'the Boards were gone'.

It was also in the face of 725 submissions supporting Council's initial position of retention of the status quo.

**24 August Abel Tasman National Park Draft Management Plan Hearing of submissions Takaka.** The difference between the meeting at TDC and the Hearing at Takaka on the same day was profound. The hearing panel made submitters feel most welcome and comfortable and asked sensible logical questions.

**25 August: Short notice Community Board workshop Takaka** to discuss Representation Review debacle. Unanimous agreement to lodge a strong appeal with the Local Government Commission. Work commenced on the compilation of this.

## **ISSUES**

Seabed Mining Application, as mentioned, it is recommended that groups concerned about seabed mining should register with DoC and Tasman District Council. We have registered with DoC and the Nelson – Marlborough Conservation Board.

Accordingly it is recommended:

"That Golden Bay Community Board registers its interest with Tasman District Council Environment and Planning consents staff on behalf of the Golden Bay Community and asks to be informed, as an interested party, to any application for mining related activities within the Territorial Sea adjacent to the Golden Bay Ward".

## **Kindergarten Approval**

It is great that the Ministry of Education has agreed to the establishment of a Kindergarten in Golden Bay. This has resulted from the third application by the organising committee and full credit is due to their effort and perseverance. The Community Board has been supportive from the outset and facilitated the first meeting. This facility will provide another option for early childhood education and will complement existing facilities. It is recommended that the Board send a letter of congratulations to the Kindergarten organising committee.

## **Port Tarkohe**

Having received some additional financial information on Port Tarkohe accounts and having replied by letter to the Tasman District Council CEO e-mail containing this, the Board now needs to formally resolve its position.

Preliminary discussions with the Office of Auditor General indicated that it would be difficult for them to conduct a Review. This was felt to be in light of their having given an unqualified approval of the TDC accounts.

Accordingly it is recommended:

“That following receipt of additional information from Tasman District Council together with preliminary discussions with the Office of Auditor General, unless there are further concerns raised by residents and ratepayers the Golden Bay Community Board will leave further action in abeyance.”

And secondly:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports the restructuring of Taroakohe finances to sustainable levels as proposed by the Council Enterprises Sub-committee.”

### **2006 – 07 Annual Plan/LTCCP Community Meeting Round**

It has been suggested that the Board bring some of the Annual Community meetings forward to September to also enable discussion and questioning on GB Planning and Representation Review matters.

Accordingly it is recommended:

“That the Pohara, Takaka and Collingwood Golden Bay Community Board Annual Plan meetings be held as soon as possible with dates and venues to be confirmed, booked and advertised.”

### **Mt Stevens Carpark**

As mentioned in the DoC forum notes there have been repeated requests to tidy up the Mt Stevens car park and track entrance. This is an iconic day tramp to an accessible Golden Bay high point and deserves to be better recognized as such by DoC and Tasman District Council. Part of the car park is likely to be on road reserve. It would be great if the two agencies could work together on this. Accordingly it is suggested:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Engineering Services requesting that they work with DoC to make the Mt Stevens parking area accessible and useable for the purpose intended.”

### **Salisbury Swing Bridge Accessway**

The poor state of the Salisbury swing bridge access had been raised by a resident. The access needs gravelling and drainage work done. Maybe this could be done in conjunction with the Mt Stevens work listed above.

An e-mail and photos are attached.

## **Abel Tasman Quilt Purchase Funding Applications**

Some applications were lodged before 31 August closing dates. Additional applications are likely to be required. The Canterbury Community Trust application needs to be in by 20<sup>th</sup> September.

We have one opportunity to make this purchase. Any other ideas on fundraising are most welcome.

## **Vehicles on Beaches**

As reported in the DoC Forum and to the Tasman District Council office, there have been recent complaints about inappropriate vehicle use in Motupipi Estuary and Pohara Beach.

Complaints were referred to the Police who reportedly have no interest in policing these areas.

The Board had previously requested a bylaw with a speed limit equivalent to the sea speed limit of 5 knots within 200 metres of the shore. This proposal was referred to Neil Jackson. It appears that the Board needs to refer this matter to the Resource Management Policy Committee for action before this summer.

Accordingly it is recommended that the Board does this.

## **Representation Review**

Council's decision on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2006 to abolish community boards came as a real shock. This was especially in light of the process followed with almost all informal and formal submissions supporting the status quo which had been adopted by Council as its initial position. Having studied the process it is clear that a strong appeal can be made to the local Government Commission.

The discussion to abolish is irrational when the process that was adopted and followed is studied in logical chronological context.

The Board needs to formally move that an appeal be lodged by the Board with the Local Government Commission, and accordingly it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board lodges an objection and an appeal with the Local Government Commission regarding the final decision by Tasman District Council to the Representation Review.

## **The Big Picture**

Concerns have been raised by more than one resident that the Representation Review decision is cynically designed to deflect the community from other issues of concern.

Therefore it is recommended that our Board and Community keep our ears and eyes on the big picture. Examples suggested are deals to enable private occupation of part of the Port Taranaki land, sea bed mining related approvals, lack of resource consent condition compliance etc.

**Joe Bell**