

## REPORT

**TO:** GB Community Board  
**FROM:** Chairperson  
**DATE:** 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
**REFERENCE:** E855  
**SUBJECT:** Report for 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009 GB Community Board Meeting

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

**November 2: Agenda setting for 10 November Board meeting.**

**November 3: Community Board Annual Plan community meeting East Takaka.**

**November 4: Community Board Annual Plan community meeting Takaka.**

**November 5: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Committee meeting Onekaka.**

Matters discussed included:

- Report on Stream care difficulty with funding for nursery and on-going planting.
- Financial report.
- Keep New Zealand Beautiful meeting Richmond 3 December.

Planting projects update:

- Takaka Hill sign repaint.

**November 6: Community Board Annual Plan community meeting Pakawau.**

**November 10: Community Board meeting Collingwood.** Unconfirmed Minutes are available on: <http://www.tdc.govt.nz/pdfs/GB091110%20Minutes.pdf>

**November 10: Community Board workshop** prioritizing matters which arose during the eight community meetings for consideration by the Full Council meeting to be held 12 November.

**November 11: On site meeting Labyrinth Park** with TDC Reserves Officer Kathy Tohill-Curnow. Car park area and park access and tracks inspected.

**November 13: Collingwood Area School prize giving and dinner, Collingwood.** It is great to see the young people acknowledged for their year's efforts and also to see former pupils present for the occasion. Murray McClintock gave an excellent address about his studies and work experience since leaving CAS including recent efforts with Climate Change.

**November 17: Golden Bay Community Workers AGM, Takaka.** A very well attended meeting acknowledged the tremendous input of the community workers especially in the face of changed economic times.

**November 20: Golden Bay Community Board meeting with Inspector John Winter** who has been appointed Officer in Charge of the Tasman Policing District together with Golden Bay Officer in Charge Sergeant Arthur Clarence. Discussed policy issues such as:

- vandalism;
- setting appropriate speed limits;
- bicycles on footpaths;
- administration support for the Takaka Police Station.

**November 20: Tasman/Nelson Environment Awards, Mahana.** It was great to see and hear of the various projects in our region and especially the success of Golden Bay entrants. Cliff Turley's book '*Rocks and Hard Places*' was first in the Heritage/culture category with Pat Timings, for contributions to Golden Bay history and Sandy Isbister and Sheryl Win '*Collingwood Kids -150 Years of Learning*' Highly Commended. Aorere Catchment Group was first in the Rural category for improvements to Aorere water quality and Ross Patching Highly Commended for his work in improving on-site effluent disposal on his own and other properties. There were a total of 87 entries. Congratulations are due to all entrants and Award winners.

**November 22: Preparing Draft GBCB submission on TDC Speed Limits partial Review.**

**November 23: Releasing re-vegetation, Nelson Street road frontage Milnthorpe Park Scenic Reserve.**

**November 23: Preparing GBCB Draft submission Performing Arts Centre.**

**November 24: Releasing re-vegetation Nelson Street.**

**November 24: Performing Arts Centre submission finalized.**

**November 25: Collingwood Hall Committee meeting at Hall.** Met with artists NgAng and Chris Finlayson re Memorial Windows. Further options considered. Other matters discussed included:

- Power account contributions being sorted with TDC.
- Heater power costs \$3.75 per hour. Extra charges for use of the Hall when heating is required will need to be made.

- Hall gutters needed cleaning.

## **November 30: Agenda Setting for 8 December Board meeting Takaka.**

### **ISSUES**

#### **Golden Bay Stream Care Funding**

It is wonderful that the Aorere Catchment project has been receiving funding and Awards for the improvements to the Aorere water quality. Unfortunately a key support group has missed out on funding this year. Golden Bay Stream Care has been operating nurseries and carrying out riparian planting. Their largely volunteer efforts will fold without funding.

Raising plants is a continuous commitment and cannot rely on uncertain and intermittent funding.

Therefore it is suggested that an ongoing fund be established. It is recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board makes a contribution of \$250 from the Board Discretionary fund towards the establishment of an ongoing Golden Bay Stream Care fund.”*

#### **Aquaculture Submission**

Government is considering aquaculture issues at present and has invited submissions by 16 December 2009.

Our Board has long advocated for the need of a Marine Management Plan for the Golden Bay Ward Territorial Sea (to 12 nautical miles). We have also received representations about aquaculture over the years therefore it is recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board makes a submission about proposed aquaculture reforms before the closing date of 16 December 2009”.*

#### **Governance Study Petition**

The organizers of the governance study petition have reportedly reached the 10% required from both Nelson and Tasman areas.

The Local Government Commission will now be able to enquire into benefits/costs/implications of possible co-joining of Nelson and Tasman areas together with other options which may arise.

Councils can also put forward their own proposals for consideration by the LGC if they feel that the canvassed proposal is too narrow.

Costs should be minimal and it will be up to Councillors to ensure that the Councils do not incur unnecessary expense by trying to deter the consideration of options.

Much of the information required by the LGC is available in Long Term Council Community plans, Annual reports and the like.

### **Motupipi Street Car Park**

The Board has been receiving enquiries as to when TDC will remove the foundations from the building demolished in the Motupipi Street car park site behind the former premises of Waitapu Engineering. It has been reported that nothing is planned for several years. This appears to be a re-run of the Sicon yard/Library car park debacle which left that area looking like a bomb site for far too long.

Leaving demolition sites on Council land for extended periods would not be tolerated in Richmond and should not be acceptable elsewhere in Tasman District. At the very least the demolition of buildings needs to be completed at the time it is carried out, foundations removed and the site left tidy. Accordingly it is recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that the foundations on the demolition site in the Motupipi Street car park be removed and the site left tidy without further delay.”*

### **‘In Committee’ Business**

As previously raised the Council Enterprises Subcommittee is conducting almost all business ‘in committee’. The Agenda for the 2 December meeting is another example. This Subcommittee is a subcommittee of Council. It must not operate as a secret coterie like a private corporation beyond public scrutiny. Councillors are required to provide open and transparent governance as representatives of the ‘owners’ who are all of the residents and ratepayers of the District.

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out the Principles relating to local authorities s14 1) *“In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles:*

- a) *a local authority should –*
  - i) *conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner;”*

Under s3 Purpose the Act requires inter alia

- b) *“Promotes the accountability of local authorities to their communities.”*

Under the TDC Councillors Code of Conduct in item 5.7

*“Elected members have the responsibility to see that wherever possible business is conducted in “open” meeting. Powers to exclude the public should be used only when absolutely necessary and only for the reasons permitted by law.”*

We accept that on a few occasions some matters do need to be considered ‘in committee’.

From media enquiries and comments from councillors in addition to our own observations it is apparent that there are more matters being discussed 'in committee'. In addition, there are a lot more Council 'workshop' meetings.

Our wider concerns include:

- Even when discussions are appropriately held 'in committee' decisions made are frequently not being confirmed once the public meeting has resumed.
- There is often inadequate information in Agendas about matters which are proposed to be discussed 'in committee'.
- Agendas should ensure that 'in committee' business is the last item before the end of a meeting.

The ratepayer assets that the Council Enterprises Sub-committee provides governance for have not changed. The governance used to be open and transparent. Now it is not.

The commercial imperatives have not changed. Where is the commercial competition in Golden Bay to Port Tarakohe or to Motueka Aerodrome in Motueka?

As an example of our concerns, towards the end of the 2007-08 financial year, we noted that lease monies due at Port Tarakohe remained outstanding. We enquired and were assured that the invoices had been sent.

We no longer see the Port Tarakohe balance sheet for which we worked so hard to have put in place. We can no longer see the record of income and expenditure. We cannot see that the receipt of monies for these leases has been recorded. There is currently no Council openness and transparency to our community in the operation of the Port in this regard.

Given the history of the previous lack of Tarakohe accounts this again raises many questions that openness and transparency needs to be able to address.

We have taken this issue up with the Mayor to no avail. We are aware that some councillors have also expressed their concern. The Community Board on behalf of the community is right to challenge this secrecy. Accordingly it is recommended that:

*"The Golden Bay Community Board refers the matter of the Tasman District Council Enterprises subcommittee operating in committee outside the intent and spirit of the Local Government Act 2002 and the Tasman District Code of Conduct to the Office of the Ombudsmen and other agencies as appropriate."*

### **Golden Bay Wharves and Jetties**

The Board needs to formally move that Council be requested to re-licence the Mangarakau, Collingwood, Milnthorpe and Waitapu wharves as Council assets. Accordingly it is recommended:

*“THAT the Golden Bay Community Board requests that Tasman District Council re-licences the Mangarakau, Collingwood, Milnthorpe and Waitapu wharves as Council assets as per previously.”*

### **Discretionary Fund Grant**

The Board made a grant of \$500 for the penguin signs during the August Board Meeting subject to success of the other fundraising.

Moved Board members McLellan/Gamby  
GB09/08/04

THAT the GB Community Board grants \$500 from its Discretionary Fund for seed funding for the Pohara penguin signs project, to be confirmed once the total amount is raised.

CARRIED

Chris Finlayson has advised that some of the funding applications have been unsuccessful but he is still going ahead with the project.

He is foregoing payment for his design work etc as a contribution. Mr Finlayson also advised that Fulton Hogan is also donating time etc for putting the signs up.

He needs to uplift our \$500.

With the above donations ‘in kind’ instead of cash I believe we can amend our resolution and release the \$500. Accordingly it is recommended:

*“That the Golden Bay Community Board accepts that the donations of work ‘in kind’ enables the Penguin sign project to proceed and agrees to release the \$500 grant from the Board Discretionary Fund for this purpose”.*

### **Seasons Greetings**

As we near the end of 2009 a big **Thank You** and Best Wishes are extended to all who have contributed to the success of our community and Community Board over the past twelve months. We invite Service Centre staff and members of the public present to join us for morning tea.

We look forward to meeting the challenges that 2010 will present.

Joe Bell