

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: The Chair
DATE: 26 January 2011
REFERENCE: E855
SUBJECT: **GB11-02-01 – REPORT FOR 8 FEBRUARY 2011**

Wishing everyone a happy New Year although the mess left in the path of the Aorere River has certainly made for a difficult start to 2011 for many families affected by the floods of the 28th December.

Aorere Flood

Mother Nature certainly ensured that we would not forget 2010 when early 28th December the Aorere River experienced its most extreme flooding event in European history. Now estimated to be a 169 year flood event this has had a huge impact on the Community from Upper Bainham to Ferntown.

Martin Doyle (Hydrologist TDC) stated in his report:

“River Flow

The normal flow of the Aorere River in December is around 30 cumecs and the annual flood level is 2,030 cumecs (the annual flood can be described as the flow that is exceeded once a year on average).

The Aorere River at the Devils Boots site (Rockville) peaked at 3,560 cumecs for this event. The previous highest recorded in 33 years of record was 3,086 cumecs in 1985. The average recurrence interval of the 2010 flood is 169 years, an exceptionally large event, and the most significant flood in a large river within the Tasman Region since hydrological monitoring began in the 1950’s. It is almost certain that this was the largest flood flow experienced in Tasman over the past 100 years.”

Michelle Riley, Golden Bay Federated Farmers, has written a very comprehensive report for the Minister of Agriculture:

http://www.fedfarm.org.nz/f2353,105038/105038_2011-01-18-Aorere_Report_to_the_Minister_of_Agriculture.pdf which deals with all aspects of the flood.

The Minister of Agriculture toured the area and spoke with affected landowners and attended a meeting organised by Golden Bay Federated Farmers at the Rockville Hall on Monday 24th January 2011 which was also attended by the Community Board and Councillor Bouillir.

Roads and Bridges

Two bridges were swept away in this event; the historic 1902 Salisbury foot bridge (which ironically had provided the life line to Quartz Range families in January 10th 1985 when the adjacent road bridge over the Aorere was swept away in another significant flood event), and the James Road Bridge which is the only access for the Pomeroy and Garrett families who farm over the river. This was a Bailey suspension bridge which had pre-stressed wire cables anchored by concrete blocks and in 1968 was sourced by the Public Works Department costing \$35,000 to replace the Cart bridge built in 1904 which could only take ½ ton but and which had been upgraded to carry more in the 1930s.

Tasman District Council staff who were supposed to be on holiday, plus elected members, Federated Farmers and Rural women all worked together in various ways to try to assist those affected. It was a very busy period with computer in-boxes constantly full of emails detailing all aspects of flood relief and activity. It was much appreciated as it kept everyone fully informed on all aspects of the flood work. What is usually a pretty quiet time of year (apart from holiday activities) was full on for everyone.

Tasman District Council acted under urgency to repair the river bank where it had been breached on Don Riley's farm, creating a new river course, flooding farms and houses, and taking out the approaches to Dalls Creek bridge. This latter damage closed the Collingwood to Bainham Road and meant that the alternative route through Plain Road was the only access for the Aorere Valley. Fulton Hogan staff worked hard restoring this access in less than a day and were very vigilant with all the roads and bridges ensuring they were roadworthy and safe to use. The Aorere Bridge at Ferntown sustained damage to the abutments which is also receiving urgent repair work.

While life for some has returned to almost normal, for others whose homes and farms have had substantial damage normality will be a long way off. Farm incomes which were already down due to the cold wet spring and prolonged early draught are further affected with loss of production due to pasture damage, cows needing to be grazed off, winter feed crops choked by silt, and supplementary feed needing to be purchased. In an area reliant on the rural sector this will have an ongoing impact.

The whole community from as far as Tata and Upper Takaka, Kaihoka and all spots in between have helped with cooking, cleaning and fencing and this support has been greatly appreciated. The Lions delivered new potatoes to all affected families - another wonderful welcome gesture.

At our December meeting the Community Board was briefed by Roger Ball the Manager, Emergency Management for Nelson Tasman, and Roger Broadhurst our local Controller also attended. Various aspects of civil defence were discussed but little did we know how soon we would be dealing with a real emergency. A local debrief meeting was held at the Collingwood Fire Station on Friday 31 December 2010 to discuss what had gone well and what if anything could be improved upon. It was felt that the Golden Bay Civil Defence Response plan, which had been developed over several years, should have been more closely adhered

to in some aspects. Another briefing was held for Civil Defence personal and a wider briefing is to be held early February.

There was no loss of life for which we are very thankful and any lessons learnt from this emergency will be able to be incorporated into an update of the Golden Bay Response plan.

Anatoki Flood

The Anatoki had a 53 year flood event which peaked at 627 cumecs which was the largest flood on that river in the last 30 years. It had an impact on both the Salmon Farm which had significant stock loss and Bencarri Farm Park/Cafe. The Salmon farm was able to get up and going more quickly, however Bencarri's Café was inundated and has suffered significant damage. Mike and Leith had made temporary repairs so as not to miss out on the whole summer tourist season. The permanent work will be undertaken in winter. Councillor Bouillir and the Board Members made two site visits; one to look at the extent of the damage and the second to be there for the Compliance officers visit to look at issues of silt which blocked the creek and contributed to the café being flooded. The silt has been identified as coming from the adjacent property where permitted earthworks have been undertaken. It is envisaged that some mitigation to ensure that the creek does not become blocked like this in the future is being investigated.

Holiday Programmes

There has been a wide range of holiday activities over the Bay organised by various groups and individuals. Thanks to all for these great events which make Golden Bay such a dynamic holiday destination.

Recommendation:

"THAT The Golden Bay Community Board writes to the organizers of the Holiday events and thanks them for their contribution to the Holiday activities and entertainment."

The Mural

Chris Finlayson has now begun the mural in the old Library site and already this site is looking vibrant and exciting. He is involving as many people as want to contribute their time including older children; what a wonderful experience and to be able to look back and say "I helped on that mural". We are very fortunate to have Chris' service, who is recently the recipient of a Resene NZ award for his mural work, and he offered to give his time free of charge of this project. The Community Board and Tasman District Council have contributed, as have a number of businesses around town.

The new Sunflower mural on the back of Mondo facing into the Library carpark is guaranteed to lift spirits too; another wonderfully vibrant Chris Finlayson shared artwork.

Recommendation:

“THAT Chris Finlayson be thanked for this latest wonderful mural and for his ongoing support for public artwork in Golden Bay.”

TDC Home Page

A bouquet for all the work done on this site which has become easier to navigate. The Golden Bay Community Board would like to see the community boards' information (see attachment to report) updated to provide a more accurate picture of the role of Community Boards.

Recommendation:

“That the Tasman District Council update the current information about community boards on its website. It is requested that this be done in consultation with both Motueka and Golden Bay boards.”

Reorganisation/Amalgamation

The District has not heard anything yet from the Local Government Commissioners regarding their findings after conduction Hearings throughout the district. Councillor Bouillir, and the full Board made a verbal presentation to the three commissioners Sue Piper, Grant Kirby, and Gwen Bull, supported by Donald Riezebos and Michael Coles of the Local Government Commission, at the Takaka Primary School Hall on the 17th of December 2010.

It seems a long time ago now but this debate will not be resolved until there is some resolution regarding a decision. Our verbal submission is included in the Public Information pack.

Compliance Officer

We will have a report from John Bergman and Sally Quickfall of Control Services at our March meeting. The Councillors and Community Board Members all met with them both at the A&P show where we had a brief update on their activities. It is making a difference to have the extra hours for this holiday period. We were very pleased that Cr Bouillir's motion at the December Full Council meeting was successful and we thank the councillors who supported this assistance for Golden Bay over the holiday period, when we have so much pressure on our resources.

A & P Show

15th January saw another very successful Golden Bay Show with Tasman District Council staff along with all community board members and both councillors taking turns in the tent. Dry Crust's Mark and Jeannie Raffils set everything up, as usual, and were on hand to assist. .A great combined effort from all.

Recommendation:

“THAT the Golden Bay Community Board writes and congratulates the A&P Show committee on another great community event and for their work over the year to ensure that the day was a success.”

Old Library Site

We have begun the consultation process for which we have a closing date of February 11. It is great to see lots of ideas flowing in via our email address, which we hadn't previously used for a purpose such as this.

After we have had an opportunity to collate the submissions we will then present the results to everyone at a public meeting. Consultation document attached to report).

Recommendation:

"THAT the Golden Bay Community Board sets a date for a meeting to present the results of the consultation to the public, prior to preparing and presenting a recommendation from the old library consultation delegation to the Community Services Committee."

Takaka market

Board members continue to liaise with the market operator and we are all very pleased with the operation of the market which is a great asset to Takaka. It is supported by tourists and locals who are very appreciative of the variety of stalls and goods/services on offer.

Sewerage Site

Councillor Bouillir, and the Community Board members and three members of the public met with Jeff Cuthbertson and Gavin Hutchison on site at the ponds January 24th. Jeff and Trevor Norris Chair of Engineering will attend the February Board Meeting with updates on Golden Bay issues.

Golden Bay Integrated Health - Te Hauora O Mohua

This group met on the 24th January and the update from that meeting is included in the agenda.

TRMP

At the Rockville meeting on the 24th January the Minister of Agriculture stated that it is not the RMA that is the impediment to extracting sufficient gravel from the rivers to ensure watercourses are not impeded by gravel build up. He stated it is the TRMP and the interpretation of the RMA by Tasman that needs to be amended to better reflect the individual characteristics of each river.

The Mayor and Gary Clark encouraged attendees to submit to TRMP (Variations 68 – 70 and Change 17) Part IV Rivers and Lakes which is currently up for submission.

Recommendation:

"THAT the Golden Bay Community Board considers making a submission to the TRMP - (Variations 68 – 70 and Change 17) Part IV Rivers and Lakes."

Outstanding landscapes

Shelagh Noble has continued working on this over the holidays and had a display at the A&P show where she spent time explaining issues and discussing aspects of this project with folk. We look forward to re-engaging with Shelagh on this project.

Golden Bay Community Board's Action List

The Board needs to make a date for a workshop to go through all the items on this list.

Mataitai Reserve at Anatori and Kaihoka

Congratulations to Manawhenua ki Mohua on the establishment of this area.

Recommendation:

"THAT the Golden Bay Community Board write to Manawhenua ki Mohua congratulating them on the establishment of the reserve area."

Freedom Camping

In the 27 January 2011 Environment and Planning agenda under Manager's Report, there is an item *Freedom Camping Regulation*. We should respond to this as soon as possible to ensure we are consulted regarding any bylaw.

Recommendation:

"THAT the Golden Bay Community Board supports Council in drafting a Bylaw to address issues of Freedom camping particularly where it relates to the situation in Golden Bay."

Aquaculture Legislation Amendments

The Golden Bay Community Board needs to submit in support of Council's submission. Subsequent to Alan Vaughan's advice, it is recommended as follows:

Recommendation:

"THAT the Golden Bay Community Board's supports Council's submission to the Aquaculture legislation amendments and notes its opinion that the original Environment Court findings and directions included adequate provisions for monitoring any adverse effects resulting from the proposed changes as contained in the Bill. The Board also supports the request for Council to have the ability to recover the costs of monitoring either from MFish or from the marine farm site owners."

Summary of December/January Events

I have not included a diary of events in this report, but suffice to say both Councillors and Board Members have attended a huge number of events during this very busy and traumatic holiday period and have responded to a colossal volume of requests, phone calls and emails; a very big thank you for your input in so many ways. Our inboxes over-floweth!

Finally, grateful thanks to Richard, and all the Tasman District Council staff who have risen to the occasion and ensured that essential urgent work was undertaken in a timely way. For this the district is very grateful.

Carolyn McLellan