

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members
FROM: David Ogilvie, Chair
DATE: 9 June 2010
SUBJECT: Report to meeting of 15 June 2010 – RMCB10-06-03

1 Motueka – Construction Site?

There is a lot going on currently:

- In Old Wharf Road, Chings Contracting are completing the stormwater upgrade;
- Across the road, Wilkes's are extending the Recreation Centre;
- A major sewer-main upgrade with the consequent required road works is going on in High Street (between Woodlands Avenue and Tudor Street) – carried on by Fulton Hogan;
- The Pay Street – Queen Victoria Street realignment is nearing completion (Fulton Hogan also);
- Along High Street north, Oldfields have been contracted by NZTA to construct a new, better surface for SH 60;
- While on the corner of Pah Street and High Street, Fresh Choice Supermarket is undergoing a building transformation (Gibbons Contracting);
- In Thorp Street some surface repairs have been completed.

It seems that wherever you go there is construction – all worthwhile and essential, sometimes frustrating, particularly for High Street retailers, and aggravated by a dramatic cold, wet start to winter in mid-May.

Into July it is expected that these projects will be completed. We look forward to Spring with new buildings and much-improved High Street surface.

2 Entry Sign

The Motueka sign beyond the round-a-bout is impressive – size, stone-work, carvings and the sign itself. The river theme is carried through successfully with the river stones and even the written wording indicative of river flow.

Congratulations to Our Town Motueka on the completion of this project, particularly to Howie Timms (Chairman) who drove the project and resolved many of the detailed concerns which arose in the last 12 months.

The sign has been discussed and debated for many years by community groups – location, cost, size, design factors, wording etc. Hopefully this sign will meet with approval.

Although the culmination was engineered by Our Town Motueka, the other groups involved in the early stages played an important role in progressing the concept. It is very pleasing to see it in position.

3 Action Items

Each month recently I have listed approximately 20 “action items” primarily as a memory-jogger as to the many activities we are linked to. Similarly, with the list of projects, activities that are scheduled for Motueka Ward in 2009 – 2010. The Council year ends on 30 June, and while many projects and activities will continue into the 2010 – 2011 year it would be satisfying to have seen more progress.

For example, the memorial plaques in Deck’s Reserve, the landscaping/parking project along Motueka Quay and Central and West Motueka Structure Plan.

I attended the latest Community Services Committee (3 June 2010) and spoke about the first two. (Also, briefly, re the Bob Cooke Freedom Camping proposal and the Tapu Bay Reserve Management Plan). I am hoping for some activity as a result.

4 Annual Plan 2010 – 2011

My thanks to Tara for presenting the Board’s submission on the Council’s draft Annual Plan. The Council finalises the plan by 30 June 2010. It will be of strong interest how our submission has been assessed.

We put considerable time and energy into our submission and, also of course, evaluating responses to our newspaper advertising, public forum requests and the many suggestions from residents. The initial submission is prepared in October/November and modified for final presentation in March/April.

Some of the recommendations will be addressed by individual departments, eg Motueka Transportation Study and Motueka Central and West Structure Plan). I’m hopeful of real progress on those issues. Equally, some projects need to be given a higher, and possibly immediate priority (eg Riwaka to Kaiteriteri Road, Motueka Library, increased footpath and cycle lanes budget).

I’m particularly interested in our Community Board budget. It seems manifestly unfair that some areas benefit with a \$10 per ratepayer grant from Council whereas we receive \$3.31 per ratepayer. Our Annual Plan recommendation is that our benefit be raised to \$5 per ratepayer, but other areas unchanged. The Council’s decision will be a useful yardstick as to how it judges the Motueka ratepayer.

I acknowledge that the Mayor, Councillors and Managers will respect the effort that the Community Board’s submission involved, and that they will apply serious and careful consideration to all our recommendations.

5 Local Government Act 2002 – Amendment Bill

Clause 45 of the proposed Amendment clarifies the law to allow councils to fund community boards through targeted rates, (Amendment to Schedule 7, Clause 39).

Interestingly, this is contrary to the recommendation promoted by the Local Government Commission (also the Minister’s speech to the Community Board Conference in 2008!)

Submissions on this Amendment Bill close on 18 June 2010. The Golden Bay Community Board is proposing to make a submission, and I believe we should do likewise.

6 Community Firewood Project

Due to changes in funding criteria, the Conservation Plan course at ATET is winding up, and being replaced with a new course which will not focus on conservation training. The ATET Conservation Plan students and staff have done great work chopping up unwanted orchard trees for distribution to low income families.

The firewood project has received a lot of support from community groups and individuals who have expressed offers of practical support to keep the scheme running. But how will it continue without the woodchoppers at ATET? The Board needs to discuss the future of this project.

7 Community Board Members' Expenses

(Discussion of this item was held over from the Board's meeting in May 2010). Refer to separate report.

8 Recommendations

The following recommendations relate to a number of issues that the Board has discussed over some months. I am hopeful that a specific resolution to the appropriate Council department will lead to the result we want.

David Ogilvie
Chair

Meetings May 2010

Date	
3 May	Met Motueka Councillors, Engineer Services Chair, Transportation Manager and Our Town Motueka Chair at the High Street – Tudor Street intersection to resolve traffic and landscaping issues. Council to remove trees, but to reposition the bollards, seats, bins at that site. Council promised to replant “appropriate” trees where they have been removed (at least 3) and to plant additional trees between Tudor Street and Whakarewa Street, and to provide landscaping at the proposed new round-a-bout at the Woodlands Avenue, Whakarewa Street and High Street intersection
4 May	Festival of Lights meeting – to finalise programme
5 May	Met NZTA Senior Asset Manager (Michael Kargar) and Opus Manager (Matthew Taylor) at the Tudor Street – High Street intersection. Discussed the Council’s decision and aspects of the Transportation Study, particularly the bypass need.
7 May	<p>Motueka High School – Community Issues Class (Bruce Reid, teacher), Pedestrian Crossings along High Street.</p> <p>Our Town Motueka – Design and Heritage Committee, hanging baskets proposal, improved signage.</p>
10 May	<p>Motueka District Museum Trust Board. Agreed to support the Community Board’s street name proposals.</p> <p>Marahau and Sandy Bay Residents Association meeting.</p>
11 May	Motueka Community Board monthly meeting.
13 May	Interview with Bob Irvine (Fresh FM) re the salient issues arising from the Board’s meeting.
14 – 28 May	Australia, Coolangatta, Queensland
31 May	<p>Festival of Lights, advertising and programme</p> <p>Abbeyfield Motueka Management Committee</p>