

## **REPORT**

**TO:** Motueka Community Board Members

**FROM:** David Ogilvie, Chair

**DATE:** 31 August 2010

**SUBJECT:** **Report to meeting of 14 September 2010 – RMCB10-09-02**

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### **1 MOTUEKA COMMUNITY BOARD**

It is always surprising how quickly a three-year term passes. October / November 2007 was a period of high expectation as our Community Board first met, established our processes and began our representation and advocacy for the residents of Motueka ward.

There have been many successes and rewards, but the disappointments involving our relationship with the District Council have tempered the overall progress that we have developed and maintained.

The reluctance of the Council to extend delegated functions (despite the Local Government Commission's recommendation); the creation of the divisive targeted rate for the Golden Bay and Motueka wards; the failure by Mayor and Councillors to acknowledge our representation for local residents over wide-ranging issues. The years 2007 – 2010 could have been so much better for the Council if there had been early recognition of the positive worth of the Community Board.

I consider, however, that in the last 12 – 15 months a more friendly and favourable relationship has developed. Our detailed submissions to the Ten Year Plan (LTCCP), followed up by similarly detailed submissions to the Regional Land Transport Plan, Motueka Transportation Plan, Central & West Motueka Structure Plan, and subsequent Annual Plans have brought some acceptance.

Of more importance, however, is that the Board has raised its own status and recognition within the community. Board members have become closely involved in virtually every avenue of community life. It is always encouraging when residents approach us in their first step in dealing with Council. Our advice, assistance and guidance is giving the Community Board a status in Motueka which I don't believe has happened previously.

The Board is recognised as representing and advocating for Motueka, in essence implementing the role that the Local Government Act has outlined for New Zealand's Community Boards.

### **2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As Chair, I have been grateful for the continuing, strong support from Duncan, Tara and Paul as Board members.

It has been unfortunate that Duncan's time in Dunedin has lessened his activities locally over the past 12 months. Notwithstanding, his frequent e-mails, and various reports have maintained Duncan's link with the Board. Moreover, his work (prior to Dunedin) in

communication, rural fires, the firework project and Arts Council was worthwhile and ongoing.

Paul's workload and family concerns have affected his input into the Board. But his community knowledge, his common sense, and social skills have been of real benefit throughout the three years, and particularly recently as Paul's life has returned to normalcy. He is a good sounding board as to how the average Motueka person is thinking: a barometer to the Board's acceptance locally.

Tara has been a valuable member and contributed actively at every point during these years. As a young person she has an unusually strong interest in local government, and critically examines the reports, recommendations and decisions made at Board and Council level. She has led us to promote youth matters, technology, and conversation issues. I believe the skills she has will serve her well as she extends her political career, possibly at District Council.

I understand that Duncan is standing in Dunedin as a Community Board member. Paul has offered himself to continue with the Motueka Board. Tara has decided to contest the Motueka ward as a District Councillor.

My thanks to each person for the work they have done individually as Board members and collectively for the people of Motueka. The community owes a debt to each one for the contribution made in promoting Motueka interests, and crusading for the various projects.

Best wishes for successful campaigns leading up to October 9th, 2010.

### **3 ROLE OF COMMUNITY BOARDS**

It is opportune to repeat Clause 52 of the 2002 Local Government Act, in its statement of the Role of Community Boards.

"The role of a community board is to -

- (a) represent, and act as an advocate for, the interest of its community; and
- (b) consider and report on all matters referred to it by the territorial authority, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board; and
- (c) maintain an overview of services provided by the territorial authority within the community; and
- (d) prepare an annual submission to the territorial authority for expenditure within the community; and
- (e) communicate with community organizations and special interest groups within the community; and
- (f) undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the territorial authority."

These points are highlighted in the meeting room framed illustration. The work we do is measured continually against these statutory requirements, and almost inevitably the

representing, advocating, reviewing, reporting and communicating will bring the Board into discussion, debate, dispute with the Council. This is normal, natural and healthy. The Board has a partnership relationship with its Council and relations among partners will clearly vary at different occasions.

Respect for the role of the Community Board is paramount, just as a Community Board respects the role of the Council.

#### **4 FREEDOM CAMPING: NELSON CITY INITIATIVE**

The Board will be interested to learn that Nelson City has designated the Sovereign Street car park as available for non-self-contained or self-contained camper vehicles for up to two nights. (Sovereign Street bounds Guppy Park, approx 1km from the Information Centre). A toilet block is to be constructed there. Security services will monitor regularly.

Our Board has recommended that the TDC and Nelson City have similar policies towards freedom camping – in having similar by-laws and providing appropriate camping locations – by co-ordinating a welcoming experience for all visitors to Nelson – Tasman.

Tourists are increasingly important to the Motueka economy and I would encourage the Council to consider the City's approach, and involve the Community Board and / or the Tasman Bay promotions Assn in this.

#### **5 MOTUEKA MUSEUM FRONTAGE POLICY**

The Community Services Dept. has referred the policy to the Board (and also to the Museum Trust Board) for comments.

The frontage has at times been viewed as the "hub" of the town's central business area with many community groups taking advantage of this central open space. Occasionally, commercial use and vehicular use of this area has caused concern to the Museum and Muses people. A policy to control the area is appropriate.

The main issues will likely revolve around:-

- Commercial use of the site
- Vehicular activity : servicing and parking
- Parklands School area
- Community organizations use of the site
- "Soap-boxing" by political or religious organizations, or individuals

The Community Board's recommendations and those of the Museum Trust Board will be actioned by the Community Service Committee.

#### **6 NZTA / TDC LIAISON MEETINGS**

The letter from the Engineering Services Manager (Peter Thomson), which I received early in August, baffled me. Similarly, the Engineering Services Chair's report for their meeting on 19 August 2010.

The Motueka Community Board has only occasionally received meeting notices, or requests for items, and reports (minutes) of the Liaison Meetings. The most recent report was for the 19 March 2010 meeting.

The claims made by both the Manager and Chair are in-correct, and my discussion with Cr. Trevor Norriss has hopefully balanced the situation. I also attended the Public Forum of the Engineering Services meeting and indicated that it appeared the Boards were being specifically excluded from any communication with the Liaison Meeting, whereas any community group or an individual had opportunity to comment.

Cr. Norris has explained that this was not the case and the Board's input is welcome (although preferably with Ward Councillor knowledge).

Moreover, he stated that the Board would receive the Meeting notices and reports, acknowledging the significance of State Highway 60 to the ward, and Board's interest.

Our direct contact with the NZTA would not and could not be affected. I appreciated the contact from Trevor Norriss in this matter, with benefits for all groups involved (NZTA, TDC and the Community Board).

## **7 STREET NAMES: KENNEDY DRIVE, HART LANE, BRIDLE LANE**

The Board held over naming of these Streets / Lanes until this meeting. A decision on each is required.

## **8 FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE**

The Transportation Manager's report (10-07-03) pointed out the "Footpath Maintenance" was not reaching the appropriate Council standard. The need to provide more funding was acknowledged, with the expectation that more work would be carried out in the 2010-2011 year.

The Board itself has highlighted this situation in its various Annual Plan submissions and will support extra funding (or divert existing Transportation funding) for this sector. Footpaths that were constructed 40 years ago (and longer) are requiring continual maintenance, if not replacement.

With walking (and cycling) becoming more common among all age groups, it could be useful for the Government to provide subsidy assistance, even if it means reducing other subsidy levels. Such a change would demonstrate a more environmentally favourable principle of subsidy help.

The Manager's report showed \$73,492.00 expenditure on the Umukuri/Old Mill Road safety footpath. This amount appeared very high given the finished work: a one kilometre gravelled pathway (1.5m wide) which may not meet the Engineering Standards. Driveway culverts probably increased the price although some recovery from homeowners might be available.

The cost substantiates the need for a total footpath budget (new and maintenance) for the Tasman District being greater than \$150,000.00.

## 8 THANKS

Earlier in this report I have mentioned my appreciation of the Board members.

I would also like to thank Valerie Gribble, Lynda Quartly and Murray Staite for their contributions, in many ways, to our Board. Other staff members (Russell Holden, Chris Choat, Gary Clark) Councillors and the Mayor have been involved peripherally in their various capacities and advised us as required.

We have had a friendly but professional relationship with the media – thank you Alastair, Anna and David for your reports and at times rendering the mundane, newsworthy.

We all owe a special vote of thanks to the public, not only those few who attend our meetings or even those few whose meetings we attend. The people of Motueka provide a wonderful community, independent, self-reliant and resourceful. The profile and worth of our Community Board rests entirely with our own residents. We would like to have achieved more but whatever success we have had relies on the continued support of our community.

David Ogilvie  
Chair

## MEETINGS – AUGUST 2010

Date	Meeting Details
4 Aug	Attended Motueka Toastmasters meeting
5 Aug	Attended in Nelson, Active Transport Forum Address by Martin Wedderburn on Urban Design with focus on cycling and walking traffic matters.
6 Aug	High Street / State Highway 60 work completed with the Bollards being re-positioned.
8 Aug	Community Garden meeting in Old Wharf Road, conducted by Rob Francis and Tara Forde. Selected site in that location preferred, with Rob, Florian and Tara to prepare plans for the next stage.
	Viewed the Keep Motueka Beautiful “Adopt a Plot” gardens with Bob Cooke. Impressive growth evident in the early plots and overseas visiting walkers were impressed.
9 Aug	Our Town Motueka meeting. Annual Budget set.
	Marahau and Sandy Bay Residents and Ratepayers monthly meeting. Concerns re wastewater and domestic water, bus parking and playground equipment. Letter from LINZ continues the “licence to occupy” the Wetlands to 30/6/2013 and beyond.
10 Aug	Met Kathy Tohill-Curnow and Sicon reps re the High Street trees, plantings, and flower beds.
	Motueka Community Board meeting.
11 Aug	Clock Tower Trust A.G.M.
	Fifty Plus Walking Group assist with plantings in Thorps Bush.
12 Aug	Met with Andrew Kibblewhite (Treasury) to discuss Motueka district issues relative to the NZ economy. (Tourism, Horticulture, Transport, Building eg) and policy directions both for local groups and the NZ Government
13 – 18 Aug	In Tauranga and Auckland, for family wedding.
21 Aug	Maori Wardens of Motueka – signing of their Constitution; blessing of their sign at Community House.
	Attended Sky Dive – Vibes 2010. (4 days of clear skies and overhead activity).
23 Aug	Abbeyfield Motueka management meeting.
24 Aug	Meeting with Trevor Norriss (Engineering Services Chair) re NZTA / TDC liaison meetings and Community Board role. Brief tour of Wharf area and Staples Street.
26 Aug	Submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee (by Conference Call, with Paul Hawkes) re the 2002 Local Government Act Amendment Bill.