

## **GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS REPORT: JEFF CLEAVE**

August 2016

**Wednesday 3:** Local board workshop. To include Unitary Plan and the Relationship Agreement with mana whenua. Asked permission of Te Waka Angamua, to seek kaumatua guidance to pepeha within agreement. Was advised that such guidance was appropriate. Those opinions were sought, and appropriate actions to be taken.

**Monday 8:** Agenda run through. Had a great meeting as always and ensured we filled the calendar up.

**Tuesday 9:** Meeting held at Glenfern, and wonderful to be there. Penny came to observe and hope she realises it's not all laughs, and that you have to go through the hard to get to the easier.

**Wednesday 10 - Thursday 11:** Travelled to town to attend the Wild Places Conference. Have attached report. In summary there is a will from many to protect the Wild Places, but it needs more. More support from regional and national bodies to slow down the erosion of the environment through vegetation clearance for stock and agriculture and increasing human pressures. More funding for the Department of Conservation (DoC) to return them from a tourism mind-set to their original mandate of protection our bio-diversity, and landscape for the people of New Zealand, and those visiting (possibly through an inbound tourism levy system). More support from people to advocate and continue to do so, to protect these diminishing places.

**Friday 12:** Returned home to catch up with paperwork, and get meeting ready for Okiwi meeting.

**Monday 15:** Dog bylaws. People are passionate about their pals. So they should be. People in the main wanted good owners and dogs rewarded not punished for the baddies. The difficult position in deliberating is the balance between dogs on beaches and people. I am really proud of the team for the approach adopted and stand behind our decisions 120%.

**Wednesday 17:** Unfortunately missed meeting Sue for bio-security meeting, but was facing on-island challenge of children going to high school. Taimarino had interview at Auckland Boys. The local board and locals still advocating for not only schools but a reasonable boarding bursary for all children in isolated island communities. Fingers crossed.

**Tuesday 23:** Spent the day co-ordinating, then attending and facilitating the initial community meeting for the "Okiwi Pest Project" (name of group to be confirmed). Honoured to have the support of the turnout, with all permanent residents in attendance, as well as G. Waterhouse. The ideas were encouraging, the support

total. Discussion varied from methodologies, with no absolute abhorrence, as long as collaborative. Unanimous agreement that a working party be set up as stage 1, but the first on the ground exercise would be to gauge densities. Expertise was everywhere, with acknowledgement of key advice going forward could be aided by J. Gilbert and the Windy Hill Sanctuary, rather than off island, and inclusion of S. Sambel when he returns. So, so happy with the outcome.

**Wednesday 24:** Environment committee workshop. Always good for the catch up. Good to hear progress on the homestead in Tryphena. Local board discussions around presentation of Ecology Vision and our thoughts. Needs further discussion, for definable outcomes.

#### Term in review: Some of my highlights for the winterless North of OUR island

Okiwi Park access walkway and concrete skating area, and new safety footpath outside the school, including expansion of carpark area, and road sealing from Okiwi School to the bridge.

Port FitzRoy Hub. Nurses cottage ramp and steps. Wharf crane and new retaining wall, and grouting on the sea wall. New positioning of waste hub, and debris fence still to be installed.

Ecology conversation has shown me the support we can gain from speaking to the people. Without their voice we have no mandate.

Remedial work to \$7 million post June 2014, on roading on Aotea. When winters have been tough, the silver lining was community support, work for our roading teams for nearly 12 months, and roads now the best they have ever been. Thank you Auckland Transport for your constant work on our island.

Other highlights: New playground in Motairehe (thanks for your help Gary, and you will be missed), desperately needed concrete to Kawa Road.

And finally.....all the work and the advocacy achieved by our officers, councillors and locals both permanent and part-time.

#### Acknowledgements

Some might say the following is political suicide, but to all, I have been privileged to work with four lovely women with a passion, and commitment to OUR island. Their efforts have been inspirational to watch, and after a testing out period initially finding our way together....the best collaborative team, I have EVER been a part of.

I would also like to say a special acknowledgement to them for their support of myself with some difficult periods in this term when my values have felt compromised, which has elevated them ki toku whanau.

Izzy: If people don't know how much you do, or your commitment to the cause, this woman is "out there doing it" for you all. A team leader who seeks the advice and input of her team, respectful of input, and always inclusive. Nice to watch you work Iz, and learnt a great deal.

Sue: With history, husband, children, and now grandchildren behind her, she is a rock for the environment, and her little communities. Okupu, Whangaparapara, be thankful. Parks, trails, tracks, pests, nasty weeds, and sprays were all on her radar, and stayed there until dealt with.

Judy: Will be greatly missed for her total dedication and passion for the island and its critters. Big advocate for the whole island. Don't ever doubt her true grit, when the going gets tough, or her deep love for her special place ko Aotea.

Christina: Home-grown girl who became like my sister. Talked the talk, and walked the walk. So impressed with her ability to "get on with the job." Her commitment to start the abattoir feasibility (I hope it comes to fruition), and getting dust suppressants on Sandhills were huge tasks, and hard fought. Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui.....

John/ Jacqui/ Guia/ Dileeka: Your constant support, advice, and advocacy have made all WE do that much easier. Never a call went unanswered, emails forgotten, or even claim forms asked for. They all had the capacity to stop my bull at the gate attitude, and quietly calmed situations and navigated me to reasonable outcomes.

I have learnt much in this term, as I believe I have grown from this experience and would like to thank all the Auckland Council family including Te Waka Angamua, for the support for the term.

Thank you, thank you, thank you

Kia ora koutou

Naku noa, na Jeff Cleave

## **WILD PLACES REPORT**

Fantastic and inspirational seminar, with many thanks to the local board for my participation. The appetite for the environmental and bio-diversity recovery was resonated by every input, from every corner. I was uplifted by the passion, and ongoing commitment, of all the individuals that presented, and if there is a statutory will, there is a way. WE NEED TO LOVE OUR WILD PLACES....MOST DO.....

Raewyn: Predator free NZ 2050, Predator free islands 2015 including Stewart Island, and Great Barrier Island. Wild Places define New Zealand (NZ) and include land, lakes, rivers, and sea. Across Department of Conservation (DoC) and Maori land.

Vicky Robertson (chair): outstanding scenery, people's connection to the environment, links to health and well-being, cultural enhancement. Connecting people to the intrinsic value of Nature. Economic prosperity is linked to Environmental health.

Rob Suisted: Photographer passionate about NZ. Unknown, unconquered, and undeveloped. A human need for wild places. Forming, fighting and valuing. The physiological need of humans for wild places. Overseas wilderness refugees. Amazing imagery.

Peter Cochrane: Pressures of the Wild Places kind. Showed that the CO2 increase, and global temperature, are the highest historically recorded. Habitat clearance, land degradation, pollution etc. are always on the increase. We as a World can learn from 1<sup>st</sup> nation's people. He also alluded to the fact that "Wilderness alien to many" in this world of concrete and steel. Need active management. Not everyone is listening. Visitor economy, eco-tourism, and resulting pressures, seem more important than nature. Leadership at all levels imperative for value retention. Feels imperative to measure stocks and condition...."biomass" on all relevant resources

Jerry Mc Sweeney: lives in a wild place, National Places of significance. The constant battle against "Introduced pests". How do we bring things back we have lost? 2% of DoC lands have had aerial solutions. 17% to be done this coming period. Pests to include weeds. Wild places need to be loved, and championed

Lou Sanson: DG DoC. Enhancing experience for visitors. Extolling the great input of DoC. When did DoC diversify from the core business of protecting bio-diversity and move into tourism where tourism is more important than bio-diversity? Has it become more a necessity due to reduced budgets and the constant need to generate income sources rather than the efforts and resources going into bio-security and bio-diversity?

Christopher Luxon: important to be involved in the environment and it's stewardship. Promotion of elitism. Higher value tourism.

Andrew Fraser: visitors and spending up. Tourism growth industry

Girol Karacaoglu: WOW. The best presenter of the seminar.

Julian Fitter: Friends of Galapagos: Wonderful presentation, with many comparisons between NZ and Galapagos. We have many of the same bio-diversity jewels, and poses the questions why we have so few operators targeting Eco-tourism for our wildlife, be that terrestrial or marine. Having more penguins, and endemic species we are on par, with the exception WE have an all year round evergreen forest. Questioned repeatedly our representation as the adventure capital of the world, when our bio-diversity values and slow tourism should be our point of difference

Susan Walker: High Country. High rate of endemic species that have adapted to the super-dry environment. Multiple predators cats, weasels and stoats. The historic and now rapid removal of plant biomass, via cattle, goats, and rabbits, and US. Transformational pressures, including conifers, agricultural intensification, and the clearing of wetlands. The wild unintensified areas have all nearly disappeared. Need to keep wild things in wild places. Tourism largest employment

Claire Barlow: McKenzie Mayor. Protection of the land from sub-division with plan change 13, and its tussock grass land

Mike Jebson: QE2 National Trust. Four things needed for protection on private land. 1) Good info and tools to identify areas for bio sec. 2) Robust legal protection for bio-diversity. 3) Regular monitoring and reporting. 4) Ongoing investment in the management of pests and weeds. Made reference to the fact that 60% of endemic species are outside conservation land. Also pointed out that land owners need to help reduce covenant costs as current costs are approx 22k per covenant, as all the other impediments to make a philanthropic gesture easier for these groups.

Panel discussion: Marie Brown, Lesley Immink, Gerry McSweeney, Mike Neilsen, and Chris Roberts. All heartened with High Country initiatives. Protection of environment needs to be balanced with employment opportunities for people. 14 billion per annum international tourism and 18 billion locally. Why is the internal market dismissed so lightly? The need for innovative policy making, and bio-diversity banking. Recognition of land owners and the recognition of change of their generational lifestyles. Incentives sometimes advantage those breaking rules and needs the same support or more for those toeing the line. Incentives are usually small token efforts, and should be sig to change behaviour at the crossroads, for a change to public good. Target behaviour change

Dame Anne Salmond: Wild Water. Beautiful speaker as always, who believes a radical mind shift is needed for the health of the Wild Places. Pakeha and Maori world views needs to be integrated as an urgent priority

Raewyn: Hauraki Gulf. Showed many photos of Hauraki Gulf, inner and outer, but few showed the true bio-diversity value of this area....mostly post card shots. Wild places have made New Zealanders what we are, and we have shaped these places. Commented that its catchments have the most heavily intensified dairy in Aotearoa. Added to this the relentless resource extraction, has left it in immediate need of policy change to effect change, for the ever increasing downhill slide in health

Sue Miller-Taei: explore, exploit, conserve and manage. Protected areas have become common place. The shift to marine protection is being initiated. The EEZ needs to have far more recognition.

Nathan Kennedy: Ngati whanaunga. Customary management tools. Maori had authority over their dominion through their own Tino Rangatira, to include land, and water and customary practice. Greater involvement of First Nations people. Statutory instruments, some through the RMA. Fisheries Act did make Taiapure, Rahui, and Mataitai. These tools are hard to implement, without the whole country behind, in knowledge and understanding. Need innovative and adaptive change.

Greg Carlyon: Nutrient levels and farmers. Advocates for government to take the lead

James Shaw: Advocates funding DoC more. \$40 levy for inbound tourists. Nature should be protected because we love it. Rating in small community limits funds for infrastructure to look after tourists. Regional tourism fund requires consultation to determine criteria, on both private and public land

Round table exercise: was able to sit with the Youth table and was hugely encouraged by their input, thoughts and passion for the future of the country and its bio-diversity. Issues ranged from lack of Strong leaders and advocates to DoC mandate shifts from Bio-diversity to tourism, and concessions. Remedies included tourism border levy to increase national bio-diversity values, and national level leadership without agency advocacy.

James Brown. Te Haerenga. Active dialogue and inclusion....kia ora, kapai, the 2 words that will get you by when on whenua Maori. Manaakitanga is integral to their lives. Little beginnings with a big outcome. Tiriti Settlement finalised and the journey has begun. Also utilises te Waka Haurua, as an extra cultural experience. Also found out Te ingoa tuturu o te Motu o Rangitoto, ko "Peretu".

Andrea Byrom: Stated that some "Perverse ecological" outcomes could trigger action, from multiple sets of predators. Invasive mammal management is recognised as critical for success. Wild Places need large scale suppression, better detection and surveillance. High tech innovations to build acceptable and affordable landscape-scale control tools. Genetic based population suppression, was also

tabled, and commented on how perceptions may need to change in the face of the ever mounting threats to Wild Places

Derek Ball: Director of WildMob. Australia spends 2 billion/annum on conservation. Has been hard to define outcomes. Australia has not recovered any endangered animals, and most of the rest are all going into decline. Felt most care about the environment. Redraw the personal landscape. Finds the greatest motivator is self-interest. The 4C's.... conservation through community, culture, (not necessarily native), benefits to the communities, and create an army of conservationists. Answered honestly that the vast majority of Australians do not respect the knowledge of its 1<sup>st</sup> Nations people, Like the traditional burning off practices, and the stopping of this practice as been key in the extinction of some species, along with global warming

Suzie Greenhalgh: Connecting people to Nature. Keeping domestic tourism alive. Suzie wrapped up by drawing the threads together. Spoke of the unintended consequences of policies. Need to reconnect our youth to our Wild places. This in itself is a challenge because it's the parents who have stopped going and seeing and even worse are part of the generation that has stood by helpless while the degradation has happened

What a privilege to attend and very grateful for the opportunity

Naku noa, na Jeff Cleave