

Board members monthly Report – August 2016

End of term report – business as usual with a few extras.

26th July – Local board office

I had a morning in the office and caught up with our strategic broker. In terms of the skills programme which has not been progressed due to Auckland EU needing to go through a process, Helen has done a great job framing this proposal and it will be relatively easy for the new ECUSB to pick up from where Helen left.

2nd August – Local board office

At the office following up on projects, for our information funding for fresh water through Ministry for Environment. They are currently setting criteria which will be confirmed by December, until that's done we will have to wait and see if the barrier fits any criteria.

3rd August – Local board office

Workshop day with new team leader for Panuku (ACPL and Waterfront joined) and the waste team.

4th August – Conference Centre

Procurement for community facilities held at the conference centre was well attended with approximately 45 mostly local in attendance. Excellent job of delivery by Rod Sheridan and his team.

Meeting with Freightlink and Sealink to meet the new managers at the helm who also presented their "Health and Safety plan".

8th August – Local board office

Agenda run through

9th August – Glenfern

Our business meeting held at Glenfern, it did feel strange being there and knowing it is now a regional park for the public of NZ. It will be interesting to see what becomes of Glenfern once they have a good governance model in place, watch that space for updates.

10th and 11th August - Auckland Council

Spent two days in Auckland attending the Environment Defence Society – Wild Places Conference with Jeff and Judy. It was an excellent conference and reports attached.

15th August - Dog bylaw review

This being the first hearing I been involved with as a panel member, I'm usually on the other side as a submitter. It was a good process to go through, experts were in attendance on the subject matter as well as personal experience being shared with us to help inform a good robust discussion and good decision making.

While the review has taken place the board has made recommendations to the Department of Conservation (DoC) regarding the current prohibited areas to align with our.

21st August – Local board office

Ecology conversation update which has been a long process based on a collaborative process to get to the ecology dilemma our island faces, without any interference from the local board.

I would like to thank our support team as always your guidance is appreciated.

Nga mihi nui

Christina Spence

Wild Places – EDS Conference

The first day was mostly focused with a tourism flavour however these are some key concepts that resonated with me and how these concepts may give some benefit to Great Barrier Island.

Managing Special Places –

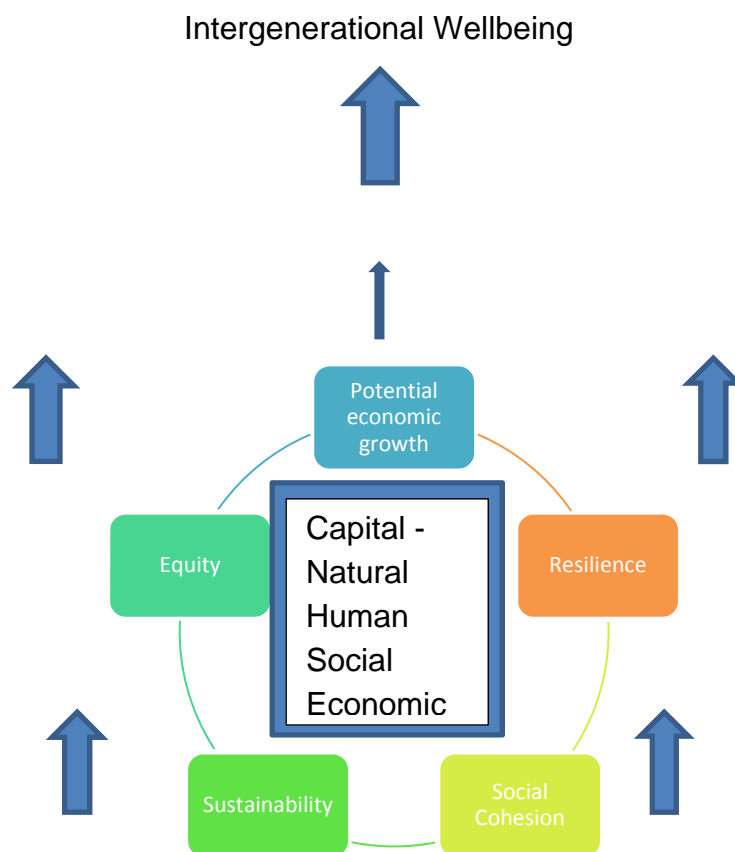
Connection to the land – health and wellbeing

Connection to nature – natural capital

Connection to the environmental – sustainability and cultural enhancement

Let's up the bar and “act locally, think globally” as this was being said I immediately thought of our wild place – Aotea, Great Barrier Island, The Rock and one of my first notes made was “Environmental Economic Systems” and how the island might tap into to a system to unlock the environmental potential. A system that recognises intention and effort, educates our people how to, create value in what we all do, carrot vs litigation, develop points of difference, and change must come from the grassroots, no buy in = no go.

I personally enjoyed Dr Girol Karacaoglu from “the treasury” who presented a concept called Natural Capital based on a model



Without one or the other none of it means anything. Our environment is our economic envelope.

I was also particularly interested in how farming (perceived by many as an evil) might add value to the environmental discussion. Blue Duck Station and Wilderness Lodges, both talked regarding integration of managing pests, remoteness, wilderness and ecological wealth and farming, all of which has made them very comfortable and enabled them to do what they love to do.

There was a focus in my opinion that although DoC has 33% of NZ's landscapes they have very little in biodiversity hot spots and a large majority are within private property sector. This however signals a concern about policies that enable protection in perpetuity. A word said often was litigation, I'll leave it at that.

On a positive note Judy and I talked more about the wilding pines initially brought to the table by Ralph Golaboski. It is without a doubt something that could be achieved and it would also have benefits to the environment (Simon Cooke says they are habitat for bats). I was excited Judy is drafting up a project which I'll also have input to. But once home OMG there are sooooo many pine trees, we may have bitten off more than we can chew.

Nga mihi

Christina Spence