

Great Barrier Local Board Chair's Report for the September 14th 2016 Business Meeting

Thursday 28th July: After completing my First Aid Refresher, Judy and I had a brief introductory meeting with Andrew Baucke who is the Director of Operations for Department of Conservation (DoC). Andrew had been over to meet with our on island DoC staff re the current re-structuring and we have a brief opportunity to touch base on a couple of island based issues.

Wednesday 3rd August: Our first Wednesday of the month workshop. Sessions with: Sven Mol from Panuku Development; Relationship Agreement (RA) with Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea and a teleconference with John and Bernard. The RA is slowly taking shape but there are still issues to be worked through. It is important to get this right and also that our community be informed of the council process in developing these RA's as all local boards will have to go through this process.

Hauraki Gulf Forum Governance Review and a look at our feedback. Jeff, as our rep, has prepared a report to circulate following this John will formulate our feedback to the review. Following this, an update on the Parks Work Programme with Gary and a look at our next round of projects and allocation of reps.

A video conference discussion on the Waste Plan with Jenny Chilcott, Emma Joyce and Warwick Jayne. Documents had been circulated prior to the session for discussion. I am still struggling with the co-mingling option but the waste team do favour that option, so I guess only time will tell. There were 50 responses to the waste survey which I found to be disappointing. There is some uncertainty as to whether or not the Great Barrier section of the plan will come back to the board in September or not.

This was followed by a discussion on our up and coming grants round. This was to be our last session with our current rep from the funding team, Danielle Hibson. Danni has been outstanding during her time with us and became well known to many of our community groups, it was a shame to lose her.

Thursday 4th August: A workshop following on from procurement. This session was open to members of the public and contractors and titled: *Market Briefing – Parks & Maintenance Contracts* led by Rod Sheridan and his team. This was a well-attended workshop where the proposed changes to the current contract make ups will be changed come 2017. This will give more opportunity for local contractors to get involved in the tendering process giving us more "Local Ownership and Value for Money". Options were outlined and discussed with expression of interest (EOI) forms given out to those contractors/people who may be interested in pursuing things further.

I am delighted to see council looking at changing its current contract formats and sincerely hope that our locals will embrace this opportunity and take it further.

In the afternoon, we had a session with Rod, Heidi and Agnes which gave the board an opportunity to get a better understanding of the process and also a more in depth look at the 3 options proposed being: *Option 1: Status Quo; Option 2: Mini 'local' full facilities – being a coordinators role; Option 3: Self delivery – council staff run with the possibility of setting up a local position in council.*

I look forward to the follow up workshops with Rod and his team to help guide us through the process.

Following on from the above two sessions we met with reps from Sealink: Chief Executive Mark Gibson and Steve Woodhouse who handles the freight. This was an opportunity for the board to meet Mark and Steve and discuss a number of concerns we have been having.

Friday 5th August: Along with Sue, Judy and Chris we met with Emma Cronin to discuss ideas around Glenfern. The future is promising for Glenfern and as long as the right governance/management structure is in place it will go from strength to strength.

Monday 8th August: Agenda run through.

Tuesday 9th August: August business meeting held at Glenfern. As has been the format of this board, we have endeavoured to have one meeting in the city, one in the south of the island and one in the north annually, and this time it was in the north at Glenfern. This meeting was also the last one for our finance advisor Jane Koch. Jane had done a brilliant job with our board and I was sorry to see her go.

Thursday 11th August: In town and I met with Phil Wilson, John and Bernard to discuss the Relationship Agreement (RA) and some anxieties I was having around it. It was a very open and frank session and I'm sure we will get there in the end. It is very important to me that all our board members are satisfied with the final document before it is signed off. I think the important thing to remember that the RA is an agreement with Auckland Council to which the local board is a party to.

That afternoon I had a brief catch up with Nicola MacDonald, chairperson of the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust, discussing their up and coming Treaty Settlement and also the Relationship Agreement.

Friday 12th August: I left NZ to chase some sunshine for 2 weeks leave. My thanks to board members for carrying on with the job/s at hand.

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th August: Catching up with John, Jacqui and board members on various issues upon my return. Sunshine holidays now but a fleeting memory.....

Wednesday 31st August: Sue and I met with Gary and Angela Radosits to discuss the official opening of the Harataonga/Whangapoua Walking Trail as the upgrade is completed. Angela is from ATEED and will be taking the lead in this event.

Thursday 1st September: Parks Meeting with Gary and Sue. Main topic of discussion was the re-structuring that is and has taken place within the department. I have grave concerns around this re-structuring and am very concerned that the Hauraki Gulf Islands face the prospect of not having a dedicated Parks Officer. I am also concerned around the process of the re-structuring and feel that local boards have been let down in not being consulted around what is proposed and the outcome of that proposal. I will be taking this up with Stephen Town and talking further with our Local Board Services team.

This was our last session with Gary as our Parks Advisor. After working with him for many years I would like to acknowledge the contribution he has made to the island. We now have a fantastic network of tracks and trails that compliment DoCs. I wish Gary all the best for the future and thank him for an amazing work relationship – I couldn't have wished for a better one.

Friday 2nd September: All day visit with Stephen Town, Michael Quinn and Jacqui. A full on day and it was a pleasure to be able to host Stephen's visit and show him Glenfern and a few other sites of interest. Lunch with board members and a follow up meeting in the board office enabled us to cover off some issues and angsts we have been having. It was also an opportunity to be brought up to speed with some of the issues on the mainland!

This was Stephen's second trip to the island and I would like to thank him for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come across and meet with us.

Signing Off.....

This is my last report of the term and I just can't not acknowledge the immense amount of work my board members have put in over the last three years. It needs to be said and I need to acknowledge it and I thank them all for their contributions ~ it's been a pleasure. My thanks also to our city side team: John, Jacqui, Dileeka and Guia ~ thankyou all for your support and guidance.

Izzy Fordham
Chair
Great Barrier Local Board