

## **Great Barrier Local Board Chairperson's Quarterly Report for the Business Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Since my last report in February, I have attended all board workshops, consultations and meetings.

My report will cover off other areas that I have been involved with. I would like to note here that this report is not in chronological order due to the number of other workshops, discussions and meetings I attend in my role as Chair.

### Workshops/Meetings of Note:

Attended the February, April and May's Chairs Forum, agenda and minutes are circulated to all elected members and I would encourage you to read them and raise with me any issues or concerns you may have around them.

Attended Meeting Processes & Procedures workshop in February which was a good opportunity to brush up on skills and discuss common areas of concern.

I attended The Delivering for Auckland Symposium held in February and was accompanied by Luke, Sue and Jeff. This was not particularly well attended but it was, once again, an opportunity to learn more about the structure of council and it's CCO's. As always good to network with colleagues and officers.

Local board's Regional/Sub Regional workshops have been held during the past three months and I have attended two of them. These workshops are an opportunity for briefing and updates on council projects.

March 17<sup>th</sup> - I attended a session on Local Board Mana Whenua Engagement for central boards. This was well attended by local boards but unfortunately not so well attended by Mana Whenua representatives. At times there almost seemed an "awkwardness" in the room which wasn't a very comfortable vibe. Maybe it was the venue maybe it was something else, I'm not sure but I didn't find it particularly constructive.

Auckland Transport (AT) hosted a Roads & Streets Framework workshop for the Hauraki Gulf Islands. I attended this along with Sue and Jeff and we found this to be very informative with some encouraging possibilities coming up for the islands.

The Joint Conservation Board and Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee meeting was held on island on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Sue and I attended and it gave us an opportunity to meet members of both organizations and get an idea of how the two groups will work together in the future. Going forward, it would be beneficial if we could have attendance at the Advisory Committee meetings to see what their mandate is, maybe the Environment Portfolio holders could take care of that. I have asked that their future agendas be sent to us.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> I attended the Joint Chair and Finance & Performance Committee meeting in the Town Hall as a pre-cursor to the Annual Budget advocacy presentations. Our presentation was scheduled for 1pm that afternoon and many thanks to Jacqui for putting the PowerPoint presentation together for us. Our focus was on alternative energy for both the Service Centre and our local board office. Our presentation was well received and we were most fortunate in the sense that, by the time I finished presenting, we had been guaranteed the funds to do that project, unheard of! My thanks to the F & P Committee for their support of this small but highly important project.

Site visits to Motairehe, Mulberry Grove, and Pah Beach looking at the coastal erosion problems those areas are having. This visit with officers and specialists was a follow up to previous visits and we now wait for a formal report to come to the board outlining further options and possibly budget requirements although some of this work should be covered by AT and possibly a regional budget. Whilst at Pah Beach, we looked at the issues of the ford and what can or can't be done there to improve safety and water flow. Once again we will receive a report covering this off. Luke and Jacqui accompanied me on all site visits and Jeff met us at Motairehe.

A meeting of Destination Great Barrier Island (DGBI), Department of Conservation (DoC) and Lynne Butler from ATEED was organised by Shirley and I chaired the session. The purpose of this was to look at the current set up of the information centre and what, if anything, we can do to improve its current setup. The session was well attended and some options were put forward as to what could be done with a reasonable budget. A process, including design, will need to be put around this before any funding can be secured.

#### Project 17:

The new structure under Communities and Facilities will be starting at the beginning of July. The initial plan didn't go down well with the board or our local contractors and I found myself having to contact Rod Sheridan to find out why a different model was going to occur to the one we had discussed. Fortunately, Rod agreed that the proposed model wasn't what had been discussed with the board and that their team had misunderstood what was happening on the island. I had a follow up meeting with Rod, Marcel, Heidi and John on May 9<sup>th</sup> in Auckland and status quo will remain for us for a while longer until things can be sorted out in a better way. I believe the board will have to be vigilant in keeping a close eye on how Project 17 develops systems for the island.

#### Dark-Sky Sanctuary Accreditation:

Over the last few months I have spent a considerable amount of time contributing to getting this application filed. It has meant many emails and meetings with the key people and attending a Planning Committee meeting in Auckland where we were granted speaking rights to seek endorsement from the committee for our application. Richard Somerville-Ryan accompanied me and was able to speak to the technical side of the lighting requirements from a planning perspective. Fortunately for us, chair Cr Chris Darby and our ward councilor Mike Lee led the way and, much to our delight, we came away with a letter of support to add to our application.

The application was finally lodged with the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and it would be another two months before we would hear if the IDA Committee were prepared to endorse it and take it through to the IDA Board of Directors. Email confirmation finally came through and the committee had endorsed it to the next stage. On June 7<sup>th</sup> we were told that the IDA Board of Directors had met and granted us accreditation! With the key people, Gendie and Richard Somerville-Ryan; Nayalini and Gareth Davies all being overseas it made for an anxious time for me due to time-zones. Eventually I was able to contact them and it was a pleasure to be able to let them know that all the hard work they had done in preparing the application was not in vain. Quite fortuitous really that the final decision should come through just as Matariki is starting.

We will now look at an official launch taking place in August this year with still plenty of work to be done.

### Learning Hub:

I would like to take the time to acknowledge all the work that Shirley and Luke have put into the Learning Hub and thank Shirley for keeping me in the loop around developments as they have come to hand. Fortunately, it looks like things have paid off and we are on or way.

### Miscellaneous Meetings/Discussions:

- i. Our trip to Waiheke Island where we were hosted by the Waiheke Local Board. Waitakere Local Board was also part of the hui and it was an opportunity to network and discuss common areas. My thanks to Paul and his crew for their hospitality.
- ii. Nikki Kaye has been over a couple of times in the last three months and we have managed to meet up with her. Nikki has followed up with various ministers on a few Great Barrier issues on our behalf. Whilst here we visited the Learning Hub and had a chat with the tutor and some of the pupils.
- iii. Cyclone Cook came and went with no real issue for the island despite the weather guru's predications. Our local emergency service kicked into action just in case it should hit fortunately we didn't have to take it any further. I worked alongside Cushla Buchanan and our local police who did a fine job in co-ordinating people and contractors.
- iv. Council's Executive Lead Team held a retreat at Glenfern Sanctuary and invited the Local Board and Service Centre staff to a BBQ. A pleasant evening and a chance for one to one discussions on Barrier issues.
- v. Catchups with our Strategic Broker Kathy before she left us to go on maternity leave; a number of island residents on various matters of concern; discussions with our Councillor Mike Lee on the Annual Plan and what our board had decided so he was aware as he entered into discussions with the Governing Body.
- vi. Educarents visit, I attended one of the two sessions held on the island looking at options for ECE service for the island. This was followed up with me co-signing a letter with Lynette Park, Managing Director of Educarents Ltd, addressed to Nikki Kaye seeking assistance.
- vii. Working with Jacqui and our team to further edit the Draft Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan and engagement schedule.
- viii. Met with Aotea Family Support Group (AFSG) re the Learning Hub and the MoE MoU.
- ix. Phone call discussion with Mayor Phil around the Annual Budget. The Mayor was making it his business to ring all local board chairs sounding out their board's position on the regional proposal. As we were discussing the regional bed tax the Mayor informed me there had been changes to the original announcement and that Great Barrier Island would be exempt from it – just as I had done a rant on how poorly this particular policy had been described and handled and how easy it was to cop those businesses that operated in a compliant fashion! Still, that should be good news for our accommodation providers to know they will be exempt.

It is quite difficult for me to articulate all that I have been involved in during the last three months. The work of the local board chair is incredibly varied and busy and stringing out a report to cover three months is quite tricky without it going on and on and on.....of which I think I have done enough of.

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