

Great Barrier Local Board Chairperson's Quarterly Report for the Business Meeting 19th September 2017

I have attended all our Local Board's workshops and meetings with the exception of one on Tuesday 22nd August when I was in Auckland attending the Finance & Performance Committee Long Term Plan (LTP) workshop.

Outside of our workshops and meetings and subsequent work out of them, my work over the past quarter has been varied and busy with a brief outline below.

- ❖ Draft Local Board Plan – continuing work with my colleagues and staff to incorporate community feedback to finalise our Plan. This also included further Have Your Say meetings on the island and one in Auckland. Pleased to say we have now completed that work and I am happy with the outcome achieved
- ❖ Attended the “*Getting to Zero Community Hui*” in Auckland with Sue. Another opportunity to see and hear what groups are doing around the region. Very inspiring
- ❖ Dark Sky Sanctuary – continued work on the launch with Gendie, Shirley and Jacqui. Meetings with Richard to look at the potential governance structure of our status
- ❖ Site visits/meetings – Windy Canyon site visit with Sue, Simon Cooke (Arborist) and Paul McArthur (Operations Manager, Department of Conservation - DoC) to get an idea for a propose project to build a viewing platform. Gooseberry Flat South Reserve to look at signage and the re-alignment of the stairs continuing work on this with land owner and project manager
- ❖ Hosted Deputy Mayor Bill Cashmore who came to visit our board and area. Appreciated Bill taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit our place and spend time with board members Luke, Sue and Jeff
- ❖ Met or had discussions with community members over various issues including: catchup with Rendt and some of Aotea Family Support Group's (AFSG) work; Teresa Barlow re Shoal Bay Wharf; Kim and Nikki Watts re new sign at Claris; Kate Waterhouse re environmental project ideas; Sue and I met with Fenella from DoC to look at a Ridge to Reef Seminar
- ❖ Attended the Regional/Sub Regional workshop in Auckland with Sue
- ❖ Attended two Environmental Portfolio workshops which gave us an opportunity to touch base with our Biosecurity Officer Jeremy Warden and our Biodiversity Officer Shanti Morgan. We are most fortunate to have both these people living on island and passionate about their work. Sue and I also prepared the board's feedback to the Regional Pest Management Plan
- ❖ With Jeff and Sue attended the blessing of the new iwi sign in Claris. Following this we had a meeting with the following Auckland Transport (AT) personnel around the Regional Land Transport Plan: Ben Halliwell our AT Liaison Rep,

Wally Thomas Chief Stakeholder Relationships and Tipa Compain Maori Policy and Engagement

- ❖ With Jeff, attended a meeting Shirley had arranged to discuss Claris Car Parking issues. Ben Sanderson, Sean McCarthy and Ben Halliwell were also in attendance
- ❖ Attended Chair's Forums in Auckland and also met with Phil Wilson, Governance Director. Phil is meeting with each individual Local Board Chair to see how things are going for the board. Once again, appreciate these one to one opportunities
- ❖ Attended two of the Finance & Performance Committee LTP Workshops
- ❖ Predator Free New Zealand – met with officers and DoC reps in Auckland to see how this may or may not affect our island and the best way to ensure that our community has a far say and understanding of this national initiative. We have since had a follow up workshop with Brett Butland who is heading the Pest Free Auckland program. Work continuing on this front as we move forward
- ❖ Rates – received three complaints from property owners re increases in their rates due to re-classification. Continuing to work on this to get some clarity on process

Highlights during this Quarter

- ❖ Dark Sky Sanctuary Launch – it was wonderful to see our community come out in force to celebrate and embrace the event. My sincere thanks to all involved in making this day memorable
- ❖ School Visits – I was invited by Fly My Sky to help judge their school coloring in competition. Along with FMS's new Manager Grant Bacon and a pilot we visited all 3 schools and had a delightful day meeting the children and teachers
- ❖ Local Government New Zealand Conference – I have attached a separate report on this
- ❖ Destination Great Barrier Island's new website – finally they have ownership of their own site and it looks great! Congratulations to all who contributed and to Shaun Lee for his amazing design work
- ❖ With Luke, Sue, Jeff, John and Jacqui attended the Hauraki Gulf Forum's Seminar "Taking Flight" and hearing about some of the fantastic work that is being undertaken to protect and enhance the environment for our seabirds. Very encouraging to see some many of our young scientists getting involved and doing work that is recognized on a global front. Fabulous to see Biz Bell being awarded The Holdaway Award for the amazing work she does in the name of conservation. Congratulations to Tim Higham and the Forum for another superb seminar

- ❖ Seeing a Volunteer Rural Fire Crew from our island deployed to Canada as part of an international deployment to assist crews over there as they experience some of the worst fires in Canadian history. To Lance, Wayne, Roger, Martijn and Sid, well done guys and a credit to your training and skills

Lows during this Quarter

- ❖ The new Parks Structure. Despite efforts to improve it, it's still not doing it! I personally find it incredibly frustrating that our projects are not progressing as they should
- ❖ The newly declared eco-warrior who went to the media over rubbish along Rangiahua's coastline
- ❖ The sudden passing of Nolene Ngawaka-Fortzer. I shall miss Nolene's love and passion for our island. A woman I thoroughly enjoyed working with and shall miss her immensely. My personal condolences to her husband Ken and whanau

Closing

As our General Manager of Local Board Services, Karen Lyons, leaves Auckland Council to take up a new role with Ministry of Transport as Director of Auckland, I would like to wish her all the very best for the future and acknowledge the amazing job she has done in developing Local Board Services.

Local Government New Zealand Conference 23-25 July 2017

This year's conference was held at SkyCity, Auckland and was attended by approximately 600 delegates from around New Zealand. This year I was accompanied by Sue Daly.

With 23 key speakers, including the leaders of the main political parties in NZ, the topics were varied and extremely interesting.

The key speakers covered sessions ranging from:

- Community faces: how people are shaping the future
- Building tomorrow's places 2050: the role of technology
- Creating tomorrow's places 2050: Case Study (1) Rocket Lab – world innovation in Wairoa; Case Study (2) Opotiki's Aquaculture Harbour Project: a platform for sustainable growth; Case Study (3) Leading innovation and entrepreneurship in the capital
- Living spaces and lovable places: community infrastructure – presented by The City of Melbourne's Lord Mayor Robert Doyle
- Sustainable development 2050: inspire action to build great communities
- Looking after tomorrow's places 2050: meeting our nation's water needs
- Future Proofing our communities with Holly Ransom who is CEO of Emergent, a young and very switched on lady who was appointed in 2016 by the Australian Prime Minister to chair the G20 Youth Summit.

During the breaks you could browse the Expo exhibits that were on show and were once again a varied selection of businesses and services through out the country. It was also a brilliant opportunity to network with colleagues and catch up with Mayor Alfred Preece and delegates from the Chatham Islands.

One thing I found missing and that was a perfect opportunity for ATEED to showcase what Auckland has on offer both from a tourism and economic perspective. Japan was there but not Auckland!

The 2017 Conference Dinner and Excellence Awards was once again hosted by Fulton Hogan covering the Awards for: Community Engagement; Best Practice Contribution to Local Development; Best Practice in Infrastructure Management; Excellence for Environmental Impact; Excellence for Best Creative Place; Excellence for Outstanding Contribution to Local Government; Judges' Choice Award for Outstanding Value and Service Delivery. It was notable that there wasn't one finalist in the 7 categories from Auckland. Can't help wondering if there isn't an opportunity next year for us to nominate our Dark Sky Sanctuary project as an entry!

I also chose two interactive workshop sessions to attend:

- (1) Better Economic Development – which turned out to be a major disappointment for me. It was too high a level for Great Barrier Island and was definitely more geared into the urban/city areas. I ended up scribbling for our table and left the high level heads to it!

- (2) Water Quality – this was a slightly more suited to us and it was interesting to hear about managing community expectations for freshwater quality and quantity and delivering the Government's objectives. However, once again, it was leaning more towards the urban environment again.

I also attended part of the LGNZ AGM. The current President, Lawrence Yule, was retiring to pursue a career in central politics and it was time for the delegates (with voting rights) to vote for a new President. There were 2 candidates for this role: Rachel Reece, Mayor of Nelson and Dave Cull JP, Mayor of Dunedin. The meeting voted in Dave Cull as the new LGNZ President.

The Zone Members also debated 4 remits one of which was '*National legislation to manage cats*'. It was during this debate that the meeting was treated to Mayor Tim Shadbolt's recollection of what happened to his council in Invercargill when they debated a bylaw on the number of cats a household could have.....a classic Tim Shadbolt moment where he had the auditorium in hysterical laughter.

During the conference I noted a few memorable quotes. My favourite session was with Sir Bob Harvey and Ludo Campbell-Reid who did their presentation to the background sounds of traditional Maori instruments played live by 2 musicians. The melodic sounds resonated with the presenters as they talked about bringing together policy, practice and research to inform our council leaders on how they can champion change to create and sustain liveable spaces and lovable places – very, very inspiring. And, I quote Ludo Campbell-Reid who said: "*Be careful who you listen to*"; "*Have a bit more fun*"; "*If you don't build for the future you will never start – bureaucracy should be more nimble*" and finally "*It's about the children*" I always enjoy Ludo's presentations and I consider Auckland to be fortunate to have a man of his vision.

Holly Ransom, a Futurist and Global Strategist, also left a mark when she spoke about the need to "*Create a Bold Tomorrow*" and that "*Your future is defined by what you do today*"

I can only hope that our current councils and leaders take a bold approach to the future and make our places a better space for those following on from us.

My thanks to Auckland Council for the opportunity to attend this conference and I look forward to next year's.

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