

Great Barrier Local Board Chairperson's Quarterly Report for the Business Meeting 21st February 2017

Now that we are into the new year, our work really begins. We have a new Local Board Plan to put together, with the help of our community, as well as focusing on our day to day business and our presentation to council for the Annual Plan. There is no doubt about it we are in for a busy time.

Leading up to this report a few things have been progressing. **Dark Sky Sanctuary Accreditation Application:** the draft has been sent through to the John Barentine of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) for his perusal. This is done prior to any formal lodgement. Mr Barentine will provide feedback and we will make any necessary changes if need be. The document will need to have its final formatting done before the official lodgement.

Sealink: I will be continuing discussions with them around the regular freight/fuel runs to the island. In the interim, it's business as usual.

Existing projects are continuing and I attended a series of site visits to Whangaparapara, Mulberry Grove and the Stamping Battery along Whangaparapara Road with Sue, Patrick Thorpe and Jan Ramp looking at interpretive signage for these projects. We also visited the Gooseberry Flat south site and met with Karen Walker and other locals looking specifically at signage for the nesting birds in that particular area: pateke, oyster catchers, dotterels and blue penguins. Jan brought over an example of signage they use on Waiheke and this will be adopted here. Whilst there, we also looked at the possibility of re-directing the access to the new set of steps that take you up to Shoal Bay Road. Currently the access is situated very close to where the birds nest so we will look at leading people across the small public reserve and meeting up at the base of the steps. This is all part of the Tryphena Coastal Trail.

It was a pleasure to host an impromptu visit from **Mayor Phil** on January 13th and have the opportunity to have a one to one chat with him on Barrier issues and also show him around the island. John accompanied us and it was great to catch up for lunch with board members. I look forward to council's **Executive Team** visiting the island in early March and staying at Glenfern for a team building exercise. The board has been invited to a BBQ so it will be a great opportunity for some further one to one chats.

Puriri Bay Houseboat removal looks like it is finally making progress. This eyesore has been a problem for many many months and is slowly breaking up on the foreshore. Hopefully the owner will agree to council disposing of it, I will let you know of any developments on that front.

During the summer break I received a couple of phone calls from locals who had walked our latest track addition, **Station Rock Road**. They were very impressed with it: the gradient isn't too steep, the views spectacular and some great bush experiences. So, I decided to do it myself and I thoroughly recommend you give it a go. I had only done bits and pieces of it during the first stages of "bush bashing" along the paper road and to experience the

completed track was great. We are yet to formally "open" this track as we are waiting on signage, as soon as that's done we will look at some sort of ceremony.

I had a catchup with our **Strategic Broker**, Kathy Cumming, just to see how things are going with her and what we have coming up. I did the same with Jacqui looking at what we have to cover off in the early part of the term as we will have some pretty tight deadlines to meet.

With changes in some of the departments we work with it is going to take a little time to get used to the different reporting style. I'm loathed to comment at this stage as to how successful it is going to work for us. I'm sure we will all be monitoring it!

This format of quarterly reporting is new and as it has fallen during the summer break I don't have too much to report on. Like a lot of us, I attended workshops after our inauguration and had one Chair's Forum session where it was more of a get to know you affair. Now that everyone is back at work things have certainly kicked off. At our February Forum we have the follow up to the Governance Framework Review document that came out in August last year and we will be selecting our Local Board Chair's representatives to sit on the working party, councilors have already been appointed. Our board has decided to support Paul Walden, Waiheke Chair, as the rep for the Gulf Islands and the other positions I get to vote for I will be ensuring those candidates have a good grasp of local government legislation and have had experience in local boards. I will also be looking towards them for consideration of the Gulf Islands.

*Izzy Fordham
Chairperson
Great Barrier Local Board*