

## **Friends of Golden Bay (Inc)**

### **Chairperson's Annual Report April 2017**

#### **Dr Don J Mead**

The 2016-2017 year has been a full one for our Committee. We have formally met at six week intervals but it seems as we have been continually writing reports and submissions or attending hearings. There are four main areas I want to highlight.

#### **Landscape:**

Landscape was again a big issue last year with the need to submit on the suggested TRMP plan change. I would have liked to have seen more members putting in submissions as it has turned out that there were many submissions against including the three contentious areas like Mt Burnett. According to TDC they are now tidying up some boundaries and will be getting another landscape architect to re-evaluate some areas. They are working towards finalising a plan change later this year and then presumably there will be another opportunity for us to comment again.

#### **Wainui Bay Spat Farm Private Plan Change:**

This is also partly a landscape issue as the Environment Court had deemed that this marine farm was not to be designated an Aquaculture Management Area (AMA) because of the high landscape values. We opposed this plan change but TDC approved making the farm an AMA. Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay are appealing this decision and we are supporting them as a S274 party. Our committee see this as a high priority project for the coming year as it has wide ramifications. Heather Wallace is leading our efforts and she would appreciate any support you can give.

#### **Te Waikoropupū Springs and the AMA:**

Since 2013 we have been pushing for protection of the Springs and the associated aquifers and at last I can report on a more positive note. This is because Andrew Yuill and Ngati Tama have now re-submitted their request for a Water Conservation Order to the Minister of the Environment, coupled with the widespread community concern with the TDC / Takaka FLAG proposals. Almost 90% of submissions to FLAG were against the further water allocation in the unconfined zone of the AMA.

I have been heartened by your support for the weekly water sampling programme. This has been very important; it has clearly shows that the average nitrate-N in the Main Spring is at the critical level and there is a seasonal change with even higher concentrations in winter. We have also shown that Fish Creek periodically has gross bacterial contamination from ruminant animals.

Although several of the Committee have spent a lot of time on freshwater, clearly Andrew deserves the greatest praise. Thank you Andrew, for your inspiration, dedication and leadership.

**Publicity and information:**

We now have a web page where people can go to find out what Friends of Golden Bay is about and access our reports. Paul Kowen has taken a lead on this and manages the web site.

This year Gordon and Anna Mather led a big effort on our Show Day display. They were able to mount a display in the library as well. It is vital to keep us visible to the wider public as we work to ensure that future generations will also enjoy where we live. Special thanks are also necessary to Margaret Bell who supplied one of the gazebos we used.

**Concluding remarks:**

This year we were saddened by the death of avid supporter, Mona Randall. During my time as Chairman she was always there giving strong support. We miss her.

Your committee has worked very well together this year and I would like to thank them all for their efforts on your behalf. As you can see from the above we have shared the load.

Three office holders are standing down this year.

Anna, our secretary, has done a sterling job in getting our records up-to-date, writing minutes and sending out newsletters. Thanks Anna but we appreciate because of family commitments that you are unable to continue.

Jo-Anne, our treasurer, is also pulling back this year. Jo-Anne has been on the Committee since the Friends of Golden Bay began and her knowledge and advice has been invaluable. On top of that she has carried out the treasurer's job for the last few years. We really appreciate you Jo-Anne.

After 8 years as Chairman I am also standing down although I am prepared to continue on the Committee and help with freshwater science. I have tried to get Friends of Golden Bay to be forward looking rather than reacting to current issues (not that they don't continue to come up!). That has been partly successful with landscape and freshwater but I regret we have not been able to progress a marine management plan for the Bay.

Thank you all for your support. I have enjoyed my time as Chairperson.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don J Mead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Dr Donald J Mead

Chairperson

27 April 2017