

REPORT ON ZONE 5 MEETING HELD AT MURCHSON ON 13TH APRIL 2025

This was a well-attended meeting with Greymouth nonattendance.

At a previous meeting we raised the issue of free dental treatment. This was forwarded to the Board but to date there has been no response.

Nelson is in good heart and will approach the New Year with two new members on the committee. A stalwart, Pat Curry, is very unwell but manages to keep going. They have also presented a Life Membership to a member. They have arranged a meeting with the Nelson Mayor (Nick Smith) but it has taken over twelve months to achieve. He is not particularly helpful.

A long standing member for Motueka, Monty Tawhai, is very unwell with cancer and has had to step down from the role as President. This role has now been taken over by Geoff Tucker but they have found themselves in some financial difficulty. Geoff is working on this and will provide an update to the Board after their committee meeting.

Buller have passed on their appreciation for getting the board minutes earlier than they have in the past. They felt that this keeps them up to date but have asked why Zone Directors reports are not included.

Golden Bay are still picking up on membership. It was raised again that the Board makes a statement regarding the support of the Energy Authority in stopping power being disconnected from those with medical conditions.

Hokitika expressed their concerns, like all others, of the waiting list for surgery etc. It seems to be proportionally longer for the coast than anywhere else as they rely on attending in Canterbury. They are also concerned about the cost of dental care as the costs there are very high. Their AGM is on 8th May and I have been invited to attend as this could become quite fractious.

Marlborough continues to function with a new President, Bron Mogridge. Gayle has remained on the committee which is a great help. They have attended two senior Expos in Blenheim and Kaikoura and these have proved valuable. They have continued to meet with the Mayor and become closely associated with a council staffer involved in community engagement. It keeps their name to the fore.

There was very good debate over the proposed new structure. It is fair to say that the bulk of it was well received but there were some exceptions. They were against the proposed structure and feel that it should remain as it is. Under priority two they did not spurt point 1 regarding applicants for the various roles. They see this as an attempt to control the Zones which are considered to be the domain of the Zones themselves.

With respect to priority 4, marketing, there was concern over the cancellation of the distribution of the magazine and the need to pay for it should they want a copy. Although it appears that a number of members have picked this option up. There was concern with the last magazine that Winston Peters appear in a prominent position on the front cover.

This was seen as straight out politicking which we all considered inappropriate. There also concern about the Brierly advert but this was explained.

As required nominations were called for the role of Zone Representative and I was appointed to that role. Kevin was thanked for his services

Graeme Faulkner
Zone Director
Zone 5