

Date: Monday 31 March 2025
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Tākaka Office, 78 Commercial Street, Takaka
Venue:

Golden Bay Community Board

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

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RGBCB25-03-1 Cynthia McConville - Forest and Bird Golden Bay Branch	
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PUBLIC FORUM: Council provides the opportunity for public forum input at its ordinary meetings. The views and opinions expressed in public forum do not necessarily reflect the position of the Tasman District Council, Council officers or elected members

Forest and Bird are seeking solutions to the impact of off-leash dogs being exercised at these two sites where we have considerable numbers of beach nesting Variable oystercatchers. We are proposing that signage be installed at Milnthorpe/Collingwood and the Pariwhakaoho and I am putting forward a suggested sign to be funded jointly by DOC and TDC. We are also proposing Council employ a summer student to conduct a short survey of beach walkers at these two sites and hand out a "Share the Beach" flyer. Our final request today is for the Golden Bay Community Board to support the three initiatives we propose. *educate*

GBCB presentation 31/3/25:

Before I start, I would like to say that a couple of weeks ago, when I was leaving the Saturday market, I met Dave, our new enforcement officer. I was encouraged by the commitment and enthusiasm he has for his new role. This is something Golden Bay hasn't had before.

The nesting season for Variable oystercatchers in Golden Bay finishes today. Forest and Bird monitor ~~their~~ nesting sites from Motupipi/Rototai through to Milnthorpe/Collingwood. This section of the coastline holds the largest numbers of beach nesting Variable oystercatchers in Golden Bay. Their conservation status in New Zealand is "recovering." The term "recovering" is primarily due to these birds being given legal protection from hunting which has allowed the species to recover from near extinction. Ornithologist Nikki McArthur in his baseline survey classifies them as "Regionally at Risk, Recovering." At risk means a moderate to high risk of extinction, not yet considered threatened but could become so.

Forest and Bird are concerned that if we don't look after our Variable oystercatchers better than we are currently, then over time, we will lose them from our coastal beaches. Our observations show us that the breeding failures of Variable oystercatchers should be giving us cause for concern. I would like to share with you our count of chicks that survived the last nesting season. Keep in mind that each pair of these birds have two to three eggs. I have by the way only once seen three chicks raised by a Variable oystercatcher. That was at Parapara during the 2023/24 summer.

At Rototai/Motupipi there were three chicks from sixteen pairs.

At Rangihaeata two chicks from four pairs.

Between the Onahau River and the Pariwhakaoho zero chicks from fifteen pairs.

Parapara Inlet eleven chicks from eight pairs. The only bright star in a dark sky and dog prohibited.

At Milnthorpe/Collingwood five chicks from eleven pairs.

In total 21 chicks survived this last nesting season and eleven of them (50%) were raised in the Parapara Inlet. On the remainder of the coastline that Forest and Bird monitor 10 chicks survived from 46 pairs of birds. Two per cent of eggs laid produced young.

The new Dog Control Bylaw and the Department of Conservation have failed to protect our beach nesting Variable oystercatchers at two high density nesting sites. The Pariwhakaoho and Milnthorpe/Collingwood.

From the Onahau River to the Parawhakaoho dog predation and vehicles are the main cause. A lone farm dog that predates nests and dog owners who exercise their dogs by running them behind their vehicles as they drive along the beach from Patons Rock.

At Collingwood/Milnthorpe out of control dogs that run and chase birds and some vehicle disturbances are responsible for chick loss. PHOTOS: Veterinary surgeon Mana Stratton says "Chick kill here is dog related. The deep puncture wounds around the hip area of these birds and their size are too large for a cat, mustelid, rat or hedgehog. They indicate a dog grabbing the chick from behind while trying to escape. Mustelids tend to go for the back of the neck. Evidence supports dog attack."

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

1. How often do you come to Collingwood/Milnthorpe?
2. What is your primary reason for coming here?
3. How valuable or important is the Collingwood/Milnthorpe coastline to you?
4. What do you think the effects of dogs on birds are?
5. What do you think the effects of people on birds are?
6. Should the purpose of the coastline be: (a) solely for conservation (b) for recreation as well as conservation (c) should recreation should be prioritised over conservation?
7. Do you know there is a dog bylaw covering the coastline?
8. The bylaw requires dog owners to keep their dogs under effective control. What do you think effective control means?
9. Have you seen any signage on the walk about birds?
10. Have you seen any signage about dog regulations?

1. How often do you come to the Puremahaia/Pariwhakaoho?
2. What is your primary reason for coming here?
3. How valuable or important is the Puremahaia/Parawhakaoho coastline to you?
4. What do you think the effects of dogs on birds are?
5. What do you think the effects of people on birds are?
6. Should the purpose of this coastline be (a) solely for conservation (b) for recreation as well as conservation (c) should recreation should be prioritised over conservation?
7. Do you know there is a dog bylaw covering this coastline?
8. The bylaw requires dog owners to keep their dogs under effective control. What do you think effective control means?
9. Have you seen any signage about birds?
10. Have you seen any signage about dog regulations?

SHARE THE BEACH



As a community we share our beaches not only with other humans and dogs but with native wildlife. Part of the responsibility of sharing these beaches is dog owners following regulations and always having their dogs under control. In this way dog owners can ensure the safety of their community and the wildlife that call the beaches their home.

UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL

This means a dog can be kept under control by a person either by physically limiting its movements (putting it on leash) or by using commands.



Insert QR code
Dog Control
Bylaw



YOU ARE ENTERING A SITE WHERE THERE ARE NESTING AND RESTING SHOREBIRDS

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR DOG IS UNDER CONTROL – DON'T LET YOUR DOG CHASE BIRDS

NESTING AND RESTING BIRDS ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE WILDLIFE ACT AND IT IS ILLEGAL TO HARM OR KILL THEM

