Notes from Gracetown Community Meeting

held on 22 April 2011 in the Gracetown Hall.

Present: Peter Coffey, Jan Coffey, Robyn Bowler, David Devenish, Belinda Devenish, Tom Henderson, Esme Bowen, David Martin, Rick Short, Ann McFarlane, Mick Manolas, Ian Englert, Jerry Linsten, Colleen Linsten, Don Forrest, Marie Forrest, Bruce Macaulay, John James, Jan James, Jill Anderson, David Anderson, Margaret Frayne, Helen Taylor, Darryl Mack, Lee Hammond, Merv Hammond, Alison Paull, David Martin, Rodney Paull, Neil Bennett, June Bennett, Gordon Duzevich.

Apologies: Mark Paino, Annette Martin, David and Angela Burges, Pat and Bruce Goodheart, Mareg Frayne, Heather Kelly, Lesley Bremner.

David Martin, GPA President, opened the meeting at 2.07 pm. There were two topics for discussion:

1 Community Initiatives

As part of the discussions with Landcorp over the past 4 years or so, Landcorp has asked what improvements to local infrastructure and amenities the community would like to see as part of the development. The last time a list of community initiatives was dealt with was at a community meeting in November 2007. Following this community meeting and further feedback from the GPA to Landcorp in December 2007, a document titled “Gracetown Initiatives Plan” was prepared by TME in March 2008. A summary of this document had been emailed to all on the GPA mailing list in preparation for this meeting (Gracetown Community Initiatives Summary April 2011).

Community members had also been directed to the recently set up GPA website http://gracetownprogressassociation.weebly.com where a full copy of the Gracetown Initiatives Plan and the summary along with other relevant documents have been placed.

We are now at a stage where there is a need for the Gracetown community have a look at community initiatives proposed over the years and set some up to date priorities.

2 Gracetown Overarching Statement of Vision

Over the years several meetings of the GPA have addressed a vision for Gracetown. At the GPA General Meeting on 19 March 2011, Rob Alder questioned whether we had lost sight of the sustainability agenda in our work. The Gracetown Overarching Statement of Vision was adopted by the community in October 2002 and is available on the GPA website.

The statement was adopted in preparation for the community’s response to the proposed development, which at the time seemed imminent. There is a need to look again at this document and see if we still agree with it or if there should be some variations.

The Gracetown Overarching Statement of Vision was discussed first, and it was noted that the ‘no further town building expansion’ statement was compromised in 2004 when the community agreed to participate in the development process on the basis outlined in the GPA’s 12 January 2004 letter to the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure, a copy of which is on the GPA website. However, if the statement is read as being “no further town building expansion beyond the currently proposed Landcorp residential development” (assuming that the issues raised by the community can be addressed to the community’s satisfaction) then it remains appropriate.

As there appeared to be no substantial issues with the statement arising from the discussion, David M proposed that the community members present affirm the Gracetown
Overarching Statement of Vision as the Gracetown community’s intent for the future of Gracetown. The statement was affirmed.

Background to the TME document (Gracetown Initiatives Plan) was provided and the document Gracetown Initiatives Summary April 2011, which had been prepared by David M to outline the interaction between the Community Initiatives Plan, Landcorp’s existing proposals (as we understand them from the Draft Structure Plan), and the Traffic Management Reports (Uluth and Transcore), was tabled for discussion. It was noted that many of the points in the summary are related to maintenance rather than improvements to infrastructure and amenities, and therefore not relevant to the discussion. It was also noted that many of the points in the summary had already been recognised and dealt with in the Transcore and Uloth reports as recommended improvements to deal traffic management issues, and therefore need not be reiterated as part of the top priority community initiatives.

The initiatives on the summary document were discussed in small groups to determine: a) whether there were additional initiatives that should be added to the list, and b) what priority individuals wished to assign to each item in the summary.

After further general discussion community members were asked to nominate their top 10 most important initiatives. These would then be collated and used to provide the GPA with a clear picture of community priorities. A point supported by most people at the meeting was that although the second access road is not on the list of initiatives, it should be noted that this is seen as the single most important piece of infrastructure to improve the safety and amenity of the town by reducing the traffic flow through the town.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Following the meeting the nominations of the top 10 initiatives were collated and the results are as follows:

1. Build multi use path from South Pt car park along bay road to Caves Rd – 43 votes
2. Gas bbqs (note – discussion as to whether gas or electric better) and define/fence picnic area at main beach – 18 votes
3. Define (seal) main beach car park entry/exit points and paths – 15 votes
4. Build enviro toilet at North Pt car park/boat ramp – 14 votes
5. Enlarge and upgrade North Pt car park and access track – 13 votes
6. Cross walks north of bridge and store to main beach and footpath east of bridge – 10 votes
7. Melaleuca beach picnic area replace wood bbqs with gas or electric – 9 votes
8. Cross walks cnr Percy/Bayview and cnr Bayview/Salter – 8 votes
9. Footpaths Salter/Langley to South Pt car park – 7 votes
10. Upgrade main beach shelters and maintain – 7 votes