Thursday, 15 March 2001

Anthony Cross Wellington Regional Council PO Box Wellington Attachmed 5 to Lefot 01.276 Pager 1 of 13

TO ACTIC:

WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL

1 9 MAR 2001

Dear Anthony

Re Tender for bus operations between Otaki Levin & Otaki Paraparaumu

Enclosed please find a petition with 195 signatures. The Petition is asking Wellington Regional Council to consider Otaki Levin Bus Lines continuing to run this service.

There has been much support for keeping the service locally owned and run from Otaki, both orally, but also through letters to the editor in the local papers.

I realize that you have to look at the most economical service. But I am puzzled that the WRC suggested that the cost of bus tickets would increase. Otaki Levin Bus Lines have run their buses at a cost that Otaki people can afford, I now fear that this cost will be much increased.

I also believe that the most economical service is not always the best and most friendly service. As you will see from the letters to the editor, bus passengers are very happy with the obliging manner of the operator and bus driver of the existing service.

It only remains to be said, that Otaki has already suffered many closures and that yet one more business is closing here this month. We would like the WRC to consider that it would be a great pity to loose this local business also.

Your faithfully

Liz Mikkelsen PO/Box 53, Otaki Rail

Otaki.

Ph 06-364-8187 fax 06-364-8185

Email: Liz.ocean@xtra.co. nz

Bank election promise

We all know that the overseas owners of commercial banks in New Zealand have little concern for us and why should they? They are taking millions of dol-

lars from each bank they own. It would be nonsense for them to provide bank facilities for country towns. Preelection our now Deputy Prime Minister wrote a policy and part of this policy was to provide a "Kiwi" bank. I know many people voted before reading the Alliance policy.

There has been a tradition for many years in New Zealand that political parties do not keep their promises once in government. Perhaps that is why many people are surprised that the "Kiwi" bank is actually coming?

The Alliance, unlike other political parties, are carrying out their pre-election promises. What they are demonstrating is "vote for Alliance policies and that's what you get". I hope all other political parties will follow the Alliance lead.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to vote for any political party and know they will carry out their promises?

P V Seagar Paraparaumu Beach

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A bus company from heaven

It seems Otaki is going to have a full public transport service. A survey by the Regional Council is underway. I have not received mine as yet, but then perhaps not all households are being surveyed?

Some of us who are lucky enough to be passengers on the Otaki-Levin Bus Lines, think that if public transport is going to be subsidised in Otaki, then this friendly bus line ought to get the subsidy and not someone out of town. In this I totally agree with John Petchell of Otaki in his letter to the editor (February 19).

When I say that we are lucky, it is because the friendliness of the drivers is unheard of in today's society. It is never any trouble to let you off where you need to go, no trouble taking a bicycle or a pram. A helping hand is always ready. The drivers are patient while you fumble to get your money out of your purse.

But that's not all, neople on that bus

know each other. It is like a meeting place where you have a chat with someone you haven't seen for a while. What a relief to sit in the bus and let the driver take you safely to your destination, instead of you stressing in the traffic on our congested highway.

A bus passenger has taken up a petition to request that Wellington Regional Council appoint Otaki Levin Bus Lines to run all buses on the increased schedule planned between Otaki-Levin and Otaki-Paraparaumu. The petition can be signed (and has been signed by many already) either in the bus or in the local library. So come on Otaki people show you care to keep the bus locally operated.

Solveig Mikkelsen Bus passenger Otaki

In praise of dog rescuers

I would like to record my appreciation to some young girls who came to my rescue last Saturday evening (February 24).

My white bichon Louie ran away and was lost on Raumati Beach. Aftersearching for some time I came across a group of young girls (around 12-13 years) and asked them if they had seen Louie – they hadn't but said they would keep looking for him

After more searching and ringing Beach FM and talking to Rob, who was marvellous, I went out again only to meet another group of girls who told me Louie had been taken safely home by some girls they knew.

The youngsters had returned him to his home and were thrilled with their actions, as was I.

A very special thank you to you all and to Rob on Beach FM. Who says young people don't care—definitely not me!

Pant Jones Raumati There is an existing service locally owned which runs between Otaki and Paraparaumu twice-weekly between 9a.m. and 12 noon. It is a shoppers' service and I would always use that in preference to another service running at the same time as I would want to ensure the continuance of the local service.

It runs a service between Otaki and Levin twice-weekly covering the same hours as for Paraparaumu. Therefore, it is very important that it be maintained. The drivers are helpful to all passengers, and particularly so to the older age group and I am one of those.

However, as it is not always possible to arrange professional appointments for the morning, I would find an afternoon service very helpful and would use it on those rare occasions. At present I have to use the long-distance coaches if my appointment is an afternoon one.

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We, the undersigned request that Wellington Regional Council appoint Otaki Levin Bus Lines to run all buses on the increased schedule planned between Otaki-Levin & Otaki-Paraparaumu:

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Richard Murphy	16, ROBERT MCKEEN S.	OTAKI	R. Mundle	
Claire Owens	14 Materie Street	Otaki	C. V. Dwens	
MARIE GEOR	324 MANUKA ST.	OTAKI	06 - T- Sear	
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