

20 Otumoetai Road  
Tauranga  
4.4.19

The General Manager  
Greytown Trust Lands Trust  
PO Box 16  
Greytown 5712

Dear Sir,

Last weekend I was in Wellington for a funeral and one of my family told me about the Dominion Post article regarding Cobblestones and the Trust Lands Trust. Although I am no longer a resident of Greytown I made sure that I read the article because I was responsible for proposing Cobblestones and getting it established. The Trust Lands Trustees reported change of attitude concerning rebates to Cobblestones has prompted this letter.

Obviously the establishment of Cobblestones could not have taken place without the support of the then Trust Lands Trustees and that support was formalised by way of resolutions they passed after all interested parties had reached agreement as to the future path to be followed.

Since then the development of Cobblestones has far exceeded my expectations and currently not only is it synonymous with Greytown but from what I have been told is also a vital community asset with annual events such as the Jazz concert and Carol Evening that entertain so many Greytown residents each year. This is, of course, additional to the historical significance of both the site itself and the numerous buildings donated by Wairarapa residents that have been subsequently restored by many hours of voluntary labour. No doubt the Trust Lands Trustees are well aware that some of these buildings, as is the Kempton Family's Elmwood, are registered with Heritage New Zealand Limited.

Mr Kempton is quoted in the article as saying, amongst other things, that financial arrangements with Cobblestones were a product of historical decisions taken by previous Trust Boards and "they do not, in the view of the current Trustees, fit equitably."

Greytown has certainly changed over the past 50 years since those historical decisions but I doubt very much if the fundamental purpose for the establishment of the Greytown Trust Lands Trust, or its governing Act has. Indeed it could be argued that the Greytown of those days with its orchards, berry fruit farms and amenities supported by the then Trust Lands Trustees was, even more than today, compliant with the trust website aims as "a highly desirable place in which to live, work and play"

Cobblestones is unique and cannot be compared with other Clubs and educational institutions that the current Trust Lands trustees support. It is a major public attraction for Greytown and, in my view, should be treated as such and not be subject to an "equitable" restriction. The Trust originally purchased the Tully sections for \$4189.50 + Legal costs \$62.50 and the benefits to the community for the past 50 years have far exceeded the expectations of that purchase.

Naturally I would hope that Cobblestones is able to survive but if the Trust Lands Trustees make the lease of their sections untenable and Cobblestones Trust restricts its activities to its own building and stables then what will the Trust Lands Trustees do with the remaining sections and historic buildings? Would there be an "Equitable" reaction from the public?

It is ironic that some of the Trustees who seem to be critical of those past "inequitable" decisions had the benefit of them during their own upbringing and it appears to me that now community values have been replaced by capital values and that is contrary to the purpose of the Trust Lands Trust that I worked with.

Although this letter is my personal reaction to the article it would be amiss of me not to send a copy to the current Cobblestones Trust Board.



D.B.Knight