



Report **03.527**
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Committee **Council**
Author **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

Chairperson's Report

1. SOLGM Conference

I will be attending the SOLGM Conference on 8 – 9 September and will report back on the Conference at the 16 September Council meeting.

2. *Local Government New Zealand*

(a) Zone 4

The August meeting of Zone 4 of LGNZ was hosted by South Wairarapa District Council and held at Brachenridge on the outskirts of Martinborough. There was a very full report from LGNZ, copies of which can be made available to any Councillors interested. Perhaps the major item on the agenda was the presentation from Transfund which gave the opportunity not only to hear from them but, just as important, for Transfund to hear from the different authorities in the Region/Zone. There continues to be major interest in the return of the Land Transport legislation to the House and some impatience to learn what is in the version that emerges from the select committee.

As always the meeting provided excellent opportunities for networking as noted by those of our staff and councillors who attended. Much business is transacted, or at least initiated, at morning tea and over lunch.

(b) National Council

During the month of August, I have been involved, for LGNZ in two major issues being the Sanitary Works Subsidy and the new dog legislation. The Sanitary Works Subsidy issue has now been substantially resolved in a way that has pleased everybody by bringing this health responsibility into line with the funding policy provisions of the L.G.A.

3. Mayoral forum

The Mayoral Forum continues to meet on a monthly basis and this Council is currently represented for the latter part of each meeting. Then energy issue that is of greatest importance to this Council is the development of an “urban growth strategy”. This is still at an early stage.

The Mayoral Forum continues to show a keen interest in rail and general transport issues.

4. Visit to Auckland Regional Council

We have been invited to visit the Auckland Regional Council on 17 and 18 November this year. We share many issues in common with the Auckland Region, and I believe that there is significant merit in such visits and recommend that we accept the invitation.

Finding a suitable date has proved to be a difficult exercise, and the proposed dates will require us to shift the meeting of the Landcare Committee scheduled for 18 November to the 19 November. I recommend that we make this change.

5. Councillor Training

I, together with several Councillors, attended a training session on “How to be a good chairperson. I believe that all Councillors who attended this session found it to be worthwhile and we will all be trying to put our learning into practice.

6. Recommendations

- 1. That the report be received.*
- 2. That the Landcare Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 18 November 2003 be moved to Wednesday 19 November 2003.*

Report prepared by:

Margaret Shields
Chairperson