

11. NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY BOARDS' EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL MAY 2003

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Yvonne Palmer, as Chairperson of the Community Boards' Executive Committee, has provided the following report, which she presented to the recent meeting of the NZCBEC National Council.

1. REPRESENTATION REVIEWS

The next few months are already shaping up to be very busy as community boards around the country work through the representation reviews with their councils.

Some community boards have already reported that their council will not be undertaking a review until 2006, and this respite will allow time for good debate and decision making.

Community Boards working with the new Local Government Act and their contributory roles in the LTCCP process will require ongoing training. In this regard, the Executive Committee will be looking for input from Local Government New Zealand.

2. NZCBEC – ELECTION PROCESS

Since the March report to National Council, the election process for the Executive Committee has been progressing well. With the exception of Zone 3, all zones will have a representative and deputy. The Executive Committee recently considered this matter and decided *“That the Chairperson and the incoming Zone 3 Representative communicate with the Community Board Chair's in Zone 3 regarding the Deputy vacancy existing in that zone.”*

Thanks to Suzanne Howard for her assistance with the election, and her attendance at the Committee's 10 April meeting to convey information.

As the election process for the future has now been reaffirmed by the Executive Committee, details of the process will be circulated to all community boards via their Chairpersons, with copies also to their respective Chief Executives and to all Zone Secretaries.

3. BY ELECTIONS

In Tasman, Motueka has held a by election due to the recent passing of Kevin Bradley. Kevin was immediate past Chairperson of the Motueka Community Board.

In Birkenhead, the Northcote Community Board is holding a by-election in July to replace the late Eric Hobbs who was a committed worker in his community.

In Banks Peninsula, Mt Herbert has also held a by-election to replace a community board member.

4. REMUNERATION AUTHORITY

The Executive Committee has been communicating with the Remuneration Authority on various queries with community boards also having conveyed concerns to the Executive Committee and these have been forwarded where necessary.

It is likely that the Remuneration Authority will be seeking the Executive Committee's views where dissent exists between the recommendations put forward by a Council and what a community board/s feels is required.

5. COMMUNITY BOARDS' CONFERENCE

Registrations for the New Plymouth Conference have been distributed to Chairpersons of community boards and it is anticipated that good attendances will be achieved.

We are delighted that President Basil Morrison along with Peter Winder, Dianne Hale and Denise Bush will be attending. Peter and Dianne will be facilitating workshop sessions on the Friday and Saturday.

There have been many community boards submitting entries for the Best Practice Awards and resulting from these, it is hoped they can be used as best practice models for use by councils and community boards.

6. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Executive Committee is arranging for the signing of the new Memorandum of Understanding to take place at the Conference in New Plymouth by President Basil and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE, QUEENSTOWN

A letter has been sent to the Chief Executives of the Executive Committee members requesting the Council's support for their attendances at the conference. We would have liked to have seen 100% support but at the time of this report, approval for the Zone 3 representative to attend has been declined.

We have been working with Denise Bush to have suitable facilitators for the community board session. The theme will be on the implications for community boards and how to work with the Local Government Act 2002 and a focus also on the LTCCP requirements.

8. COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITY BOARDS IN ZONES

The reports now being made to the Zone meetings on the work of the Executive Committee are also being communicated to all boards with a request to be included on community board agendas for information. Where this practice is now operating, it has been well received, and the lines of communication with the zone representatives have improved as a consequence.

9. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2003/04

Members recently indicated their general support for the contents of the programme and in particular to the mention made of community boards in Portfolio 2 – Local Government Performance and Practice and the commitment to support the Executive Committee mentioned in Portfolio 15 – Internal Governance.

The Committee has reiterated a desire to work with the staff of Local Government New Zealand by contributing a community board perspective in relation to developing training programmes and also to the preparation of the best practice guidelines, in particular.

10. GENERAL INFORMATION

John Story, the present Zone 3 Representative has been advised that for health reasons he must make some lifestyle changes and this has led to John deciding to stand down from the Committee.

Don Campbell, the Zone 2 Representative has recently been in hospital and is now on the road to recovery.

Yvonne Palmer was invited by the South Wairarapa District Council to assist Kerry Marshall with members training in Featherston in March. This session was well attended by all elected members. The community boards comprise both rural and urban communities and cover the entire area of the council.

The following is an indication of the range of queries received by the Executive Committee over recent weeks:

- Delegations to community board members
- Timing of community board's input in the Annual Plan process
- Wording of Declarations for community board members
- By-election or appointment of community board members
- Costs for servicing community boards
- Petition for a new community board

- Assistance in establishing community boards
- Payment of legal costs for a community board; and
- Procedures for dis-establishment of community boards.

The Executive Committee appreciated the work recently undertaken by Mike Reid in preparing a paper for issuing by the Committee on the status of community boards under the new representation review provisions.

The Chairperson also recently had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Local Government. The chance to air a number of the above matters was particularly timely and it is pleasing to record the Minister's interest and keenness to continue to hear from the Executive Committee on issues affecting community boards, not unlike his predecessor Sandra Lee.

11. KNOWHOW SEMINARS

It was pleasing to see that a number of community board members attended the KnowHow Seminars. However, some did not know of this training and although information was posted on the web page, community board members still need reminding that regular visits to the web site will keep them up to date and better informed.

12. SOLGM FORUM ON THE REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Having attended the SOLGM review training in Wellington on 4 April 2003 it was disappointing to hear the following statements:

- that community boards cost too much money;
- they are just another layer in Local Government;
- where are councils going to get the money from to pay for them;
- community boards were ineffective;
- community boards didn't have meaningful delegations;
- having wards you didn't need community boards; and
- that there would be no community boards in the future.

It was a real pity that only two community board members attended this forum along with 30 councillors for the whole of New Zealand. There were 95 staff present most of whom were electoral officers and some Chief Executives.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the report be received.