



**Report**                **03.241**  
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**Committee**        **Council**  
**Author**             **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **1.        *Local Government New Zealand Annual Conference***

Following my request at the last Council meeting, four Councillors indicated that they were interested in attending the *LGNZ* Annual Conference this year. The Council Secretary conducted a ballot and Cr Aitken won the chance to attend alongside the Deputy Chairperson, an Ara Tahi representative and myself.

### **2.        *Local Government New Zealand***

#### **(a)       *National Council***

The National Council of LGNZ has approved its work programme for the forthcoming year. This has had the effect of raising subscriptions by 3.5% (compared with a nil increase last year). The increase has resulted from the costs of increased work programmes in a number of key areas.

#### **(b)       *Local Government Act (LGA)***

It was good to see so many of our Councillors present at the LGA KnowHow Seminar. Councillors will be interested to know that the additional Guides are coming out on schedule. By the time of this meeting, the “LGA 2002 Overview Document” and “Beginner’s Guide” should have been printed and to be followed up by the “Guide to Water” and the “Regulatory Guide”. These Guides have been extremely well received throughout the sector and hopefully will not need too much amendment in the foreseeable future.

I continue to act as Chair of the Steering Group of the LGA but the workload is fortunately not as heavy as it has been in the past.

Those of you who have enjoyed working with Raymond Horan in the past, will be sorry to learn that he has left LGNZ to take up a senior policy post at the Ministry of Education.

(c) **Local Government Forum**

Last month the bi-annual central and local government forum was held at Premier House. It is quite noticeable that relationships between both local and central government are relaxed and productive, enabling increasing amount of business to be conducted face to face. I cannot recall a period when, on the whole, local government has had such a good hearing from central government.

**3. Carter Observatory**

Cr Robert Shaw from Porirua City Council is Greater Wellington's nominated representative on the Carter Observatory Board. Cr Shaw has made the following report.

The Carter Observatory is involved in three major initiatives at present:

- first, a feasibility study is being done regarding a shift from the present site to a purpose built site on the Wellington waterfront
- second, the Carter seeks to establish unit standards in schools to enable the subject to be taught for credits towards NCEA (see **Attachment 1**)
- third, the Carter is preparing to teach the unit standards through distance education techniques to secondary school students and adults throughout New Zealand (and eventually overseas).

Should any councillor wish to hear more of this work, please email robert.shaw@paradise.net.nz or telephone Robert 233 0252.

**4. Electronic distribution of order papers**

Last year the Council secretariat commenced a review of the distribution of Council order papers. Recipients were asked if they would be happy to receive an email with live links to the reports. There was a significant positive response to this idea and electronic distribution commenced with the first meeting of 2003. Overall this has resulted in a 45% reduction in paper copies of order papers, with a saving in both cost and paper.

**5. Policy, Finance and Strategy Subcommittee**

Cr Evans, Chairperson of the Policy, Finance and Strategy Subcommittee, has indicated that he will be out of the country in early June and therefore is unable to chair the hearing of submissions on the LTCCP and Annual Plan. I have asked Cr Kirton to fill the role for the period of the hearings.

**6. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group**

The inaugural meeting of the CDEM Group will be held on 15 May at Greater Wellington. A copy of the Agenda for this meeting will be placed in the Councillors Lounge for your information.

Report prepared by:

**Margaret Shields**  
Chairperson

**Attachment 1: Extract from The New Zealand Herald**