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**REPORT 6**  
*(1215/12/IM)*

## **NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY BOARD CONFERENCE REPORT BACK ON ATTENDANCE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report back to Board members on the Conference including the subjects covered and an opinion of the value of attendance by Elected Members.

### **2. DETAILS ON THE CONFERENCE**

Together with Ted Smith from Makara/Ohariu Community Board, and Senior Committee Adviser Fiona Dunlop, from Wellington City Council, I attended the New Zealand Community Board Conference. The theme of the Conference was 'Leading to Safer Communities'. Total attendance was in excess of 150 people, and represented approximately 100 Community Boards, District Councils, and City Councils.

The Conference was held at the TelstraClear Pacific Centre, Manukau City from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 June 2007.

The speakers were many and varied and included:

Hon Mark Burton, Minister of Local Government,  
Police, Superintendent Bill Searle, National Manager, Community Policing Group.  
Superintendent Sandra Manderson, Canterbury District Commander, New Zealand Police  
Inspector Tony Lake (Queensland Police)  
Nick Tuitasi, Senior Constable New Zealand Police.  
Judge Andrew Becroft, Principal Youth Court Judge,  
Teacher, Graeme Barber, Principal, Woodend School  
Mayor Gary Moore – Christchurch City Council  
Carole Evans, Deputy Mayor, Christchurch City Council  
Deputy Mayors  
Housing New Zealand: Pat Snedden, Chair Housing New Zealand.  
Jenny Rowan, Ministry of Justice  
Robyn Rusher, Ministry of Social Development  
Tim Hughes, Land Transport Safety Authority  
Dr William Rainger, Auckland Regional Public Health.  
Jennifer Michel, Age Concern  
Dr Love Chile, Auckland University of Technology

### 3. SUBJECTS COVERED

The main theme of the conference was safety, and Policing both with a lower case and an upper case, and the position of Community Boards. A copy of the Conference programme is available from myself.

I attended all the formal presentations, and chose to attend Workshops upon  
Community Development – Graeme Barber, Woodend School.  
Effective Community Boards earn Community Respect – Carol Evans, Deputy Mayor of Christchurch  
Creative Ideas to reduce Crime – Supt Sandra Manderson  
CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) – the role of Community Boards.

Whilst some speakers were better than others, in general they were very good, and provided good ideas that could be put to good use in our communities. Other comments were very idealistic, and in my opinion, were a wish list for the speakers view of the ideal world, and had little reality, or practical use.

The comments from Pat Snedden of Housing Corp, indicated that the agreement with Wellington City Council was already a “done deal” where as I understood that it was yet to be debated and accepted by Council. The figures provided re the cost of maintaining State housing was both shocking and interesting, especially if the figures similarly relate to Council Housing. There are over 67,000 State Houses, one in every 22 dwellings in NZ. with approx 200.000 people housed..

I was very impressed with Judge Andrew Becroft, who was able to provide a different perspective of the Youth Court, than that portrayed by the media.

**He indicated that:**

- Youth offending is sky rocketing and is out of control.
- Absolutely NO exceptions to drug users
- 17 year olds should remain in some form of education – they were not sufficiently ‘grown up’
- Lack of Male role models
- Youth Justice should start at infancy and with 5 year old screening – this would help to break the cycle
- Few serious offenders from stable two parent families.
- A kid in Sport stays out of court.
- The battle is lost by age 5.

**He strongly recommended:**

- Mentoring programmes like Blue Light.
- Programmes to keep youth in education or similar (the forces).
- Focus on Programmes that work!
- Engender family stability
- Family based early intervention ie Early Start – Family Help Trust

It was a very thought provoking presentation. Unfortunately I was not able to be in one of his work shops.

Similarly Superintendent Bill Searle, and other presenters from the New Zealand Police were interesting. They explained the forth coming changes to the Police Act, and Councils, and particularly Community Boards position. Community Boards work at grass root level, where Councils should be dealing with Governance. (My interpretation.) Therefore CB's should be working closely with the Police at a local level, and especially with the Community Policing Group. Howard Broad has placed a major focus on Community Policing, and this should enable a reduction in minor and petty crime, which in turn tends to escalate to more serious offences.

In particular he noted:

- The police operate with the consent of the community.
- They cannot reduce crime and road trauma without that commitment
- They rely on community partnerships.
- They rely on information
- They need advice and assistance with implementation
- Help to reduce crime with Neighbourhood watch and guardians etc/

There were also helpful observations and hints from other police present, esp. Sandra Manderson, upon Graffiti, and how to handle it.

Tim Hughes of Land Transport was also interesting. His preview of "The Pedestrian Planning and Design Guide" gave a good insight into his work. It was thought provoking and I would recommend that it be read by Town Planners and Policy Planners.

Similarly the CPTED presentation, in which Tawa featured, was informative, and I would recommend it to Town Planners and those of similar ilk.

The Conference was useful on several levels. It was informative and thought provoking. It provided ideas for implementation that could be used within our areas. The time spent with other Board Members and hearing their solutions to problems could save re-inventing the wheel.

#### **4. MATERIAL FOR CIRCULATION**

Copies of presentations made by speakers at the Conference are available at <http://www.lgnz.co.nz/lg-sector/community-boards/conference/index.html>

#### **5. BENEFIT TO COUNCIL/ELECTED MEMBERS**

I have, and anticipate continuing, to share my thoughts from this conference with my Board members. Some of them may be considered useful and helpful in our endeavours to improve the quality of life within our Community Board Area.

Report prepared by: Robert Tredger.