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**Committee**            **Council**  
**Author**                **Margaret Shields Chairperson**

## **Chairperson's Report**

### **1. Welcome back!**

To all Councillors and staff, my very best wishes for the New Year. I hope that you are all refreshed and ready to face the challenges of the year ahead. With the LTCCP adopted last year we can concentrate our efforts on its implementation. We also have the triennial elections to look forward to later in the year.

### **2. Coastal Dune Vegetation Network 2004 Conference**

Greater Wellington has been a member of this network for a number of years. The information, advice and results of research from the network has been very useful for coastal restoration projects staff have been carrying out with community groups and in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Greater Wellington is hosting the annual CDVN conference on 10-12 March this year. There is also an optional field trip on Saturday, 13 March to Riversdale.

Councillors are welcome to attend the morning session at Te Papa on 10 March at 9.30am where the Minister of Local Government will open the conference and the Minister for the Environment will be the key note speaker.

Councillors are also welcome to attend the Regional Roundup, which will be held in the Committee Room on 10 March at 5.30pm. Please RSVP to Steph Weller, Resource Policy, if you wish to attend.

It would also be appropriate for us to nominate one Councillor from the Landcare Committee and one Councillor from the Environment Committee to attend the full conference. I will be seeking nominations at the meeting.

### **3. Wellington Regional Leaders Forum**

On 19<sup>th</sup> December there was a meeting held of the Wellington Regional Leaders' Forum. This was held in the Government Caucus Room and attended

by Regional Mayors and Chief Executives, as well as representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Positively Wellington Business, the various transport authorities and relevant MPs and Ministers. The main issue of concern discussed was transport and, in particular, funding. Paul Swain stressed very strongly the importance of developing a consensus on the roading and other regional transport issues so that an agreed strategy could be presented to Government in the near future.

#### **4. LGNZ National Council**

Having appointed a new Chief Executive, Eugene Bowen, *Local Government New Zealand* had a very busy end to the year including the finalisation of the work programme and associated budget. The main issues demanding attention at present are the bedding down of the Local Government Act, (including the work required for LTCCPs) and matters relating to the foreshore and seabed. Both these issues are central to our concerns and doubtless we shall need to hold workshops as time passes. Similarly LGNZ has been contributing to the review of transport policy.

#### **5. Broadening the Mind.....**

Over the Christmas break I took the opportunity, whilst in London and Singapore to look at some of our transport concerns. There is much that can be learned, both positive and negative, from looking at different systems in practice. My particular interest in London was in congestion pricing. Formal enquiries confirmed that in general it is working very well to reduce congestion. Personal experience showed that it still had a way to go.

On Christmas Eve we picked up a rental car from the edge of the congestion zone. We discovered that rental car companies are not permitted to become agents for London Congestion charging. On the other hand one cannot pay for one's congestion charge until after one knows the car registration number of one's rental car. Getting out of London is not an easy thing to do on Christmas Eve. We couldn't get a parking place to use while asking directions, let alone to find a congestion charge agency. And of course once one is clear of the city there are no agencies for the payment of the charge.

One can, of course pay through a credit card by phone but by the time we got to where we were going we were running very late and our hosts had invited friends in to meet with us. Alas, I missed the deadline and, to cut a long story short, we ended up paying 40 GBP instead of 5 for the privilege of driving out of the congestion zone. Needless to say the first question I had for the Singapore Land Transport Authority was about how they managed the same situation. No problem. All rental car companies are authorised to collect fees. Moreover, to assist those travelling to Singapore via the causeway from Malaysia they have facilities and explanatory pamphlets available at the border. Attitude is everything!

#### **6. Recommendations**

*1. That the Report be received.*

2. *That the Council **endorse** the attendance of two councillors at the Coastal Dune Vegetation Network Conference 2004.*

Report prepared by:

**Margaret Shields**  
Chairperson