

4.4.23

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Firstly, a big thank you to the people who nominated John Stewart and I and made it possible to share the role as 'Zone 1 representatives' on the Community Board Executive Committee. You will all be pleased to know that the Far North is well represented on this national committee. Zone 1 includes Kaipara and Whangarei, but as they don't have Community Boards, FNDC now have two reps out of the total 7 members of CBEC.

Our role as CBEC is to represent all the community boards in New Zealand, and act as an advisory committee to Local Government New Zealand's (LGNZ) National Council. We advocate for community boards and promote best practice.

In brief, at the hui we discussed the role of CBs in relation to Councils and the special relationship and responsibilities that CB members have at a 'flax-roots' level with the communities and people that we represent. It was interesting to hear from other members across Aotearoa on how they run their meetings, set agendas, and interact with their Councils.

One issue that was brought to our attention was that although MPs get KiwiSaver, Councillors and CB members are not eligible. It was pointed out that there are many young elected members that rely on their elected role for an income. These members miss out on KiwiSaver and are therefore disadvantaged as over time KS adds up to a fairly significant amount. We have asked LGNZ to advise us what the impact on ratepayers would be should all EMs become eligible for Kiwisaver.

We discussed what role CB members should or could take (if any) as community leaders in a state of emergency or around Civil Defence. We will have further discussion on this topic, including what leadership could look like in these uncertain times.

We were introduced to Ākōna, LGNZ's new learning and development programme specifically designed for elected local government officials. Their short and focused training videos and resources will no doubt support new members to be upskilled quickly. Councils need to sign up to enable their EMs to access the resources. The fee is around \$8.5k.

We set the theme for the 2024 CBEC conference as 'Resilient Local Communities'. We will look further into what this might entail including workshop themes and key-note speakers so watch this space!

In our next zui (online hui) we will elect a Chair, work on the conference, and no doubt learn more about how to really make the best of the opportunities that Community Boards present to democracy in Aotearoa,



CBEC: John Stewart and Jessie McVeagh Zone 1 (Te Hiku Community Board, Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board) Zone 2 Carolyn Hamill (Whakatane-Ohope Community Board), Zone 4 Jackie Elliot (Otaki Community Board), Zone 5 Simon Britten (Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central), Zone 3 Sarah Lucas (Inglewood Community Board). *missing from photo Zone 6 Regan Horrell (Mosgiel Taieri Community Board).

Ngā mihi ki a koutou,
Jessie