

LGNZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

15-17 July 2018, Christchurch

Joint Report

By

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This year the LGNZ AGM, annual conference and Excellence Awards were held in Christchurch. The conference theme was “We are firmly focused on the future: Future-proofing for a prosperous and vibrant New Zealand”

We attended the conference as representatives of the Otara Papatoetoe Local Board of Auckland Council. We appreciate the opportunity provided to meet and interact with over 600 delegates from 78 Councils that included many Mayors, Councillors, Board chairs, chief executives and senior management, many government agencies, and private sector representatives from across New Zealand.

A major focus of the conference was on leadership and addressing big challenges and opportunities facing many communities across the country.

On arrival in Christchurch and after checking into our accommodation we attended the LGNZ AGM at Rydges Latimer Hotel. There were a number of remits passed and welcome and introductory speeches.

During the late afternoon we had a visit to the Christ's College and a chance to mix and mingle with delegates from far and wide. We went back later for the conference formal opening ceremony and listened to Hon Grant Robertson highlighting Governments policies.

Evening reception was held at the Art Gallery.

Breakfast event was held at Rydges with guest speaker Robert Hollis who gave his version on success and mental toughness in sport and business.

Morning session at Christ's College was titled 'Creating resilient, sustainable, and living places', followed by 'Building a strong community'; a tale of a new region Christchurch. This was followed by a presentation outlining the democratic system in Switzerland and how Local Government there has 87% of funding while Central Government spends only 13%. The pick of the Workshops was 'Inspiring Maori Connections to grow thriving, prosperous communities. Associate Professor Te Maire Tau, a historian outlined how the Colonial Government had set up reservations allowing Maori to do their own economic development.

Afternoon started with speech from Hon James Shaw followed by more presentations.

We attended the Conference Dinner and LGNZ Excellence Awards at Wigram Air Force Museum. These Awards showcase council projects, programmes, and people who have made real impact in local communities. This 2018 year awards targeted economic development, cultural enhancement, environmental issues, infrastructural management etc. There were 75 applications from across councils around the country.

Morning session was held at the Christ College and Hon Nanaia Mahutu Minister for Local Government opened the session. She outlined the Governments position and policy for the sector, and was well received. This was followed with an address by Ms Deidre Otene who works in Manurewa inspiring health and wellbeing in our communities. We introduced ourselves and offered help if our OPLB could be of assistance.

We had an opportunity to take a tram tour to observe for ourselves vast devastation due to the earthquake and impressive rebuilding program in central city. Many new building techniques and materials are being incorporated in new buildings (see photo). Central city is now worth visiting with many parks, upmarket cafes and open spaces.

All in all a well rounded conference with many relationships established and others renewed. We thank the Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board for this opportunity to attend this fantastic conference. The 2019 LGNZ conference is in Wellington.



(An interesting foundation of a new building to be built shows ways to earthquake proofing)



(We stayed in a hotel next to the Christchurch Cathedral, which is still awaiting reconstruction to start)



(Interaction with many current and former colleagues from Parliament, some of whom are current Mayors)

