



# **APPENDICES MINUTES**

**Paraparaumu-Raumati Community  
Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, 8 June 2021**



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**Report on 2021 NZ Community Board's Conference**  
**Guy Burns—Paraparaumu Raumati Community Board—14 May 2021**

The 2021 Community Board's conference was held in Gore; a rural service town 70 kilometres north of Invercargill, snugly nestled by the Mataura river—a famous brown trout fishing catchment, in the heart of the historic Hokonui moonshine distilling territory.

A common thread woven by Friday's morning's speakers (Sophie Handford, Ken Ross and Lisa McKenzie) was the issue of sustainability and well-being. Much of the focus was on programs driving social change and many of the examples talked about involved partnerships with government agencies.

Jim Harland, Chief Executive, Waimakariri District Council looked at the big picture; talking about disrupters to local government (three waters, Resource Management Act reforms and local government review) and the implications to democracy as the current government pushes a strong agenda of centralisation.

These noteworthy sessions included a presentation on Engaging with Iwi and Connected Communities, followed by workshops. Such narratives highlight the need for KCDC to diversify its system of Maori consultation away from its current frozen linkages with select professionalised voices, towards a variety of grassroots sources that truly reflect Maori viewpoints at a hapu/ruunanga level.

Some delegates had their first experience of a long standing Southland traditional food; the cheese roll. The very long day finished with a big conference dinner, which must be complimented for its quality and originality.



Rodney Dow and Kat Brown-Merrin from the Ootorohanga Community Board accept the 2021 Community Board Award for best project.

Saturday begun with updates on the state of local government and Community Boards. Both Malcom Alexander and Dr Mike Reid highlighted the significance of the current forces of change. Government is planning to take water reticulation and management (3 waters) and aspects of the Resource Management Act away from local government—and have just signalled a major review of local government. These actions will weaken local democracy and people should be concerned. Elected members need to be fully informed and lobby to protect local community representation and interests.

The conference wound up mid-Sunday afternoon with an interesting talk about the history of the Gore area, followed by a visit to the famous Eastern Southland Gallery which houses the well-known John Money and Ralph Hotere collections, as well as a notable current exhibition by Tony Fomison.

All in all, the conference was well organised by Local Government NZ and warmly hosted by Gore District Council using an excellent venue. The Southland rural heartland setting added to the experience. My key message from the conference is to be critically aware of the gradual erosion of local democracy as government implements policies that centralise major functions of local government.