

**IN THE CORONERS COURT
HELD AT HAMILTON**

IN THE MATTER

of the Coroners Act 2006

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an Inquiry into the deaths
of **ANTONY CHAPMAN,
MARY-JANE BISHOP, KAY
WOLFE, MARK FERGUSON,
WILHELM MULLER,
PATRICIA FRASER, REX
DALZELL and BENJAMIN
LAWLESS**

Date of Minute:

12 May 2011

MINUTE OF CORONER MATENGA

[1] Late last year the Chief Coroner Judge Neil MacLean announced that he was considering opening a joint Inquiry into the deaths of a number of people who died following crashes while cycling on New Zealand roads. Judge MacLean was concerned to see if there were any identifiable trends in the crashes and if there was anything that could be done to reduce the occurrence of deaths in similar circumstances in the future. Subsequently Judge MacLean asked me to conduct the Inquiry as three cycling deaths occurred in the Waikato region (Wolfe, Ferguson and Muller) near Morrinsville. Judge MacLean has now designated me to conduct the Inquiries into the deaths of two people from the Auckland region (Chapman and Bishop), two people from the Palmerston North region (Fraser and Dalzell) and one person from the Wellington region (Lawless).

[2] I have given careful consideration as to how this Inquiry is to proceed given that four separate regions are involved. I have decided that the best way forward is to travel to each region and conduct an Inquest hearing in each region. This will give me an opportunity to hear evidence in relation to each matter at a location that is convenient to witnesses and the family of each deceased person. This will also provide an opportunity for me to hear from others who may have an interest in cycling safety generally throughout New Zealand or to a particular geographic location. These interested parties may wish to make submissions or give evidence on matters of concern germane to the issue of cycling safety on our roads and could do so by plugging in to which ever hearing is most convenient to them, after giving me notice of their intention to appear. My Findings will be reserved until all evidence has been heard at each venue.

[3] The matters in Palmerston North will be ready for me to hear at Palmerston North District Court on the 21st July 2011. Accordingly I so fix the date for hearing the evidence in respect of the deaths of Patricia Fraser and Rex Dalzell. The matters from the Hamilton region will be heard at the Hamilton District Court at a date yet to be fixed in August 2011. The Auckland and Wellington matters are not yet ready to be set down for hearing as they are awaiting the completion of prosecutions. Any person who wishes to appear and participate in any of the hearings should notify their interest in writing to Mrs Jennifer Chalklen, Coronial Services Unit Co-ordinator, 219 Collingwood Street, Hamilton, Ph 07 834 1756.



Coroner Gordon Matenga