

Panmure Business Association AGM 2022 Chairperson's Report

Firstly, I wish to thank my fellow Board members for their valuable input over the past year. A position on the Board is voluntary, so all our Board members are providing time that takes away from their personal lives, businesses, or jobs. We are privileged to have members with a wealth of knowledge of the Panmure community, but that are also actively engaged and consistent in their support of our township. I would particularly like to thank our Treasurer, Steven Arnold, as well as long serving members Adrienne Hodson, Susan Zwaagdijk, and Nerissa Henry.

We were grateful to be joined this year by Don Wang, Nick Deshpande and Jane Wang, whom all brought their own skillsets to our meetings. Our key stakeholders of Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board, Tamaki Regeneration Company and Eke Panuku are represented by Nerissa Henry, Evonne Geluk and Richard Taylor. The work being done by their respective organisations often impacts, sits alongside or actively works for our business community, and so their reports are important and greatly appreciated by the rest of the Board.

Earlier this year, our Town Manager of 16 years, Chris Sutton, moved on to her next adventure and we were tasked with finding her replacement. This was no easy feat, as it was under her guidance that the Panmure Business Association has been recognised for having a great focus on the betterment of businesses and the community. However, we were delighted to appoint Elaine Soakai as our new Town Manager in late August; her passion for Panmure, youth engagement and creating meaningful social impact will be pivotal to further promoting, and capturing opportunities for our local businesses, and engaging the wider community.

We are keen to continue to ensure our diverse business community is well represented on the PBA Board so if you, or someone you know, may be interested, please contact the new Town Manager to arrange a meeting to outline the role and commitments.

Looking at the Association's finances, the majority of the funds are utilised on safety, security, enhancing the environment with the LED light installation, and communications such as the monthly Newsletter. A modest amount of funds is allocated to events and promotions, so the support received from the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board, Tāmaki Regeneration Company and Eke Panuku was greatly valued. The PBA is extremely grateful for this financial contribution.

Part of the PBA's ongoing business strategy is to promote Panmure as a food lover's destination. There are many successful and popular authentic food establishments in Panmure which have the potential of drawing in customers from further afield. This year, we have continued our relationships with Mary Taylor from Eat Auckland Tours, Thomas and Sheena, the successful food critics from Chasing a Plate, as well as engaging Lazy Susan, a popular platform for foodies, to continue building this momentum. The Board is grateful for the management team for backing these promotions that have elevated Panmure Town Centre as an authentic eats hot spot. We can see the interest that it has generated for our local businesses and wider township.

The Board members would also like to recognise the PBA staff. Without their focus, energy, and commitment to Panmure, the operational implementation of our strategic goals would be severely lacking. To Dannielle Carter (Account Manager), Emma Chesney (Marketing Manager), Katie Chan (Communications Coordinator) and Taniela Kaivelata (Security Officer), thank you for your continual hard work.

For our fellow board members that have decided to move on, I would like to thank them for their contributions; of time, skills, and passion for Panmure and its businesses. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Finally, I would like to recognise the strength and determination of our business community. It has not been easy this past year; continuing to cope with Covid-19, disruptions caused by new road layouts, and the rising cost of living, yet our businesses have continued to persevere and remain positive. It is the Board's belief that together, our business community will not just weather these obstacles, but come out of it with a renewed sense of determination to uplift our township and find new ways to thrive.