



AGM 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Joint Chairmans' Report | Dave Stott & Bevan Morrison

We have another frustrating year for the business community with Covid restrictions impacting on activities until recently.

We have continued to run events when it has been possible to do so. These are important ways in which we can support local business with events that both attract large numbers of people to the town and provide professional and practical support to business.

Both of us as Co-Chair of the Association wish to acknowledge the huge contribution of Murray Chapman, our General Manager, Lauren Kumerich, Manager of Communications and Marketing and Alison Hitchcock, Manager of the Information Centre to the planning, implementation and success of these events. We also want to acknowledge the role of the many volunteers that make these events successful.

We will leave Murray in his report to detail these activities, but we do wish to acknowledge the huge success of the One Mahurangi supported *Mahurangi Winter Festival of Lights* and the One Mahurangi hosted *Emergency Services Dinner*, the latter being a first in New Zealand.

We continue to develop good relations with the Council's BID team and we have received very positive feedback from them regarding our management of the BID process. Our BID budget is currently \$142,000 and we are hopeful that this will grow as Warkworth continues to develop and new businesses are attracted to the area. You will note that we have had to amend our Constitution to ensure the rules pertaining to the BID targeted rate are consistent with Auckland Council Business Improvement District policy.

The bid budget is not sufficient to run the Association by itself so the contributions provided by our Sponsors and Associate members are vital, without which we would not have a Business Association. Many thanks to you all.

With many of the Covid restrictions now removed, we hope to run more events in the coming 12 months that focus on our members and sponsors.

One Mahurangi sees advocacy as an important part of our work. With the rapid growth in our town, we believe it essential that a strong local community voice influences key decision making for new infrastructure, well planned new development in keeping with the character of the town and for the development of a prosperous and vibrant business environment.

To that end some of our key advocacy efforts and successes are listed below:

- Hill St - we were successful in getting funding for detailed design, land purchase and procurement but the draft detailed design produced by AT does not fulfil our requirements. We are currently lobbying AT vigorously to up-grade the design
- Motorway tolls - thanks to strong and persistent of lobbying of our local MP's the Minister of Transport was persuaded not to impose tolls on the new Puhoi to Warkworth motorway. This will save our community and all of Northland millions of dollars in the coming years.
- Watercare - we are in consultation with Watercare over routes for the waste water main through the town. Watercare wanted to take the pipe up the main street but we are looking at alternative routes with them.
- Centre Plan - we are a participant with other community groups to develop a Centre Plan for the CBD
- Supporting Growth Alliance - consulting regularly with SGA on development of Business Cases for the new Sandspit Link Rd, Western Collector, Southern Motorway Interchange, upgrading of Matakana Rd and Sandpit Rd from Hill St to Rural Urban Boundary and Park and Rides at end of Motorway.
- Other advocacy projects include involvement in the development of a Tourist Destination Plan, campaign against the removal of the weir, lobbying the Government on Wetlands legislation, submitting to Government and Council on Medium Density Housing Intensification, illegal parking in Glenmore St, reverse sensitivity issues with future urban roads.

Our successes in advocacy have been in no small apart due to the positive working relationships that we have developed with our local MP's, the Local Community Board and other community groups. We wish especially to acknowledge the huge support that we received from Beth Houlbrooke.

Finally thank you to everyone who makes up One Mahurangi - sponsors, members, volunteers - together we appreciate your support and we will continue to provide you with assistance as best we can.