

AGM October 2021

Chairman's Report

The first 12 months as a BID has been a very interesting time trying to support our members through a Covid environment. It's certainly had some challenges, but we believe that we've come through it well.

The last couple of months have been particularly frustrating. We came through the end of 2020 very well, but now being into our 11th week in some form of lockdown, it has certainly been challenging for the business community, not just in Mahurangi but across the country. There has been a lot of challenges to face, and supporting our members and their businesses has been a big priority.

We've continued to run events to connect our members and give them an opportunity to share learnings and experiences. It was brilliant to see the Winter Festival of Lights continue to flourish as a great local event. Huge congratulations and thank you to Murray and the organising committee for putting on this great event, even with challenging conditions for the laser light show. It's great to see the town come to life like this.

The governance of the Association, in our first year as a BID, has had challenges with the disruption from Covid. The meetings that we have held in person have been well attended and we have had a strong committee with a broad range of experience. One of the challenges with a committee is the volunteer nature of the members, we all have businesses to run and juggling those commitments in the last year have not been easy. It has been good to have the BID structure in place to ensure that we have a strong operations team continuing to do our core activities and provide support for our members. Murray will comment on that further in his managers report.

One Mahurangi's advocacy efforts have continued strongly in the last 12 months as we still have many causes for concerns with lack of investment in infrastructure as our town continues to grow. Hill Street has taken a lot of focus and Dave Stott, our deputy chair, has been working hard with various local groups, AT and NZTA. We have had some good news with design funding being allocation for Hill Street, and it included in the long-term regional plan, but we don't yet have the full funding for construction and there is more water to go under the bridge. It's a real shame that we're still talking about this project after all of these years, but we hold grave concerns of the capacity of this intersection once the motorway opens to the North and all of the traffic from Mahurangi East tries to turn to the North through Hill Street.

There are many other issues we are continuing to work on – Tolling on NX2, a Centre Plan development for Warkworth, reverse sensitivity issues with future urban land, and more roading issues with a Southern Offramp for the motorway, the Sandspit Link Road and also traffic volumes through Matakana. We've also engaged with Mahurangi College to try to find a safe solution for students crossing Woodcocks Road, particularly during rush-hour traffic.

One Mahurangi has presented strong submissions on the Auckland Plan and also the RLTP (transport planning), and Dave Stott also presented to the AT Board in person which was a coup. We have had Shane Ellison (CEO of AT) and Steve Mutton (regional head of Waka Kotahi) visit us locally to get a better understanding of the issues that we are facing – the first time that we have had these parties visit the local area and have a first hand look at some of the issues that we are facing.

We are continuing to work hard with our local government politician's, local MP's and other stakeholders to mobilise our community and make sure that locals have a strong voice in influencing how our district develops. We have received strong feedback (which we have taken as a compliment) from AT that they believe we are the most organised and passionate area in Auckland.

This is really important as without a strong voice on what we need locally the bureaucrats will divide a conquer and do what is easy for them, rather than what is right for the community. One Mahurangi continues to play a very important role in this space, together with many other local organisations, to make sure that our voice is heard in finding resolutions to these important issues.

Murray and his team of Lauren and Allison continue to work hard in the trenches supporting our local businesses and dealing with issues as they arise. We thank them for their hard work and efforts.

Our Committee members have worked hard over the last year – their support, assistance and guidance is gratefully appreciated. A particular note of thanks to Beth Houlbrooke, our Local Board liaison on the Committee.

Also a shout-out to our sponsors – while we have the BID funding mechanism in place, we receive the smallest funding base of any of the other 45-odd BIDS in Auckland and without the generosity of these proud local businesses we would not be able to do much of what we do. I would encourage all of you – if you have the ability to use the services of one of our Sponsors – please do so.

Finally thank you to the local businesses and landlords who are part of One Mahurangi. We are working to serve you and our community and we appreciate your support, communication and honesty – please keep it coming.

Mark Macky

28th October 2021.