

Chairperson's Report – AGM 2021

As an organisation, another year of operating in a pandemic climate has been challenging and I sincerely thank the BW committee for their commitment in giving up their time to meet regularly to brainstorm, share their own business skills and ideas to plan and support other businesses, many of them on a roller coast ride themselves.

I would like to thank Sarah Carr, who is the business activator for Business Whangaparaoa for providing many things and in particular, continuity alongside strong admin and business skills and upgrade to the new website.

Goal setting has been difficult with goal posts moving sometimes at short notice, and I particularly thank those committee members who put in extra time, effort and energy to organising events that have been postponed or cancelled, which is always disappointing. The committee in particular thanks Karen Browne from NZ Sign Solutions for her unwavering support of the Gulf Harbour Marine and Leisure Festival that has been postponed. We are hoping that Karen's many many volunteer hours spent planning, organizing and attending regular meetings will come to fruition in 2022!

Another special thank you to committee member, Troy Clarry, owner of Kerikeri Park Lodge & Whangaparaoa Lodge for instigating our member to member benefit scheme and issue of membership cards.

A number of events were held over the 2020-21 financial year including Business Network events, casual get togethers, Town Centre Meet Ups and supporting online webinars from Silverdale Business Association.

Thank you to all the local businesses and members who sponsored the events that were able to take place. Sponsorship is crucial to BW and it is hoped this will be expanded on as events once again take place.

We understood that due to Covid, businesses may have been financially impacted under restricted business operations and therefore have continued offering membership to be paid in 2 instalments. This year our plan was to grow membership, but the inability to provide stability around the plan, meet, promote and have events has made membership growth difficult.

The committee would have liked to see BW become self-sufficient without the reliance on grant funding, but this wasn't achieved and again we thank Hibiscus and Bays Community Board for the funding granted to enable the organization to continue its vision of supporting different sectors of our business community.

Thank you to our BW membership who chose to join us on the journey and we wish all our members a successful coming year ahead.

Gwenda Holster-Dowler

Chairperson, BW 2021