

Chairperson's Report – AGM

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

The financial year was another challenging time for our volunteer committee of already stretched business owners, who gave their time to help unite, encourage and promote local business and community interests. I sincerely thank the BW committee for their commitment to meet regularly to brainstorm, share their own business skills and ideas to plan and support other businesses.

Thank you to Hibiscus and Bays Community Board for their support to enable the organization to continue its vision of supporting different sectors of our business community. A special thanks to Janet Fitzgerald for her unwavering support of BW and attendance at monthly meetings.

As Business Activator, Sarah Carr, did a fantastic job as the backbone of the organisation and the committee would like to acknowledge her amazing work throughout the financial year. Building relationships and working collaboratively with Hibiscus Coast Zero Waste on a Sustainable Business and Zero Waste event, Rodney Neighbourhood Support liaison and Whangaparaoa College Gateway Programme to name a few.

A number of events were held over the 2021-22 financial year including Business Network events, casual get togethers, Town Centre Meet Ups. Thank you to all the local businesses who sponsored the events that were able to take place. Sponsorship has been crucial to BW and it is hoped this will continue to allow network and speaker events to take place.

The Coast Marine and Leisure Festival Team decided it was too difficult to organise an event this financial year and this will be reviewed again mid 2023.

Funding was applied for via the Local Activation Fund Programme and granted to Business Whangaparaoa Inc via Tataki Auckland Unlimited to fund the creation of a coastal trail on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula. Thank you to Sarah Carr who has collaborated with other organisations to ensure the trail will be a long-term, sustainable and economically beneficial activity for both our local businesses and community and once finalized our goal is for this to become a trail on the Auckland-wide activities list for locals and visitors. Visit <https://whangaparaoacoastaltrail.nz/>

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 2022