



Chairperson's Report – AGM

2022-2023

By now we would like to think the C word is well behind us. However, the effect it has had on us all as business owners is significant in our own way, regardless of industry.

The particularly challenging weather compounding staff shortages and loss of business has made this a truly memorable year.

We mustn't forget some of the lessons. In particular, I'm sure you will nod with me that as business owners we have a new value perception of what is important. And I hope businesses new and established have taken the opportunity to ensure their foundations are firm. Health and Safety, insurance, HR, purpose – and sharing this with their team and customers as we all look forward to continuing to work in, for and with businesses with integrity, those who care about their place in community and who have a positive plan for the future.

Business Whangaparaoa started this calendar year confirming our own purpose and have been working very hard to deliver as much value as we can to our existing and new members in promoting the area, events and advocating with Council.

We continue to work with local Iwi, Council, AT and local businesses on the Coastal Trail we have branded the Whangaparaoa Treasure Hunt, as a way to connect the trail to offers from local businesses, making this relevant to growing local business. We again thank the Local Activation Fund Programme for funding support via Tataki Auckland Unlimited. This trail is the first AR experience of its kind in NZ and thus there is a lot of new ground to cover in delivering this. Our vision is to have this Treasure Hunt on the Auckland-wide activities list for visitors and tourists, sharing our Peninsula and attracting their spending. Penlink is sure to help with this too.

As a not for profit who relies on the support of many, we would like to thank the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board. In particular, I'd like to thank Sam Mills our Local Board Elect who is our Business Whangaparaoa liaison working very hard in our corner at grant allocation time. We also rely on generous sponsors we thank for their support. I'd like to thank our own Board who all give their time to you on a volunteer basis as we all share the desire to build Whangaparaoa as a destination, working together, as this is better for all of us.

Sarah Carr as Business Activator continues to build relationships with the Local Board, AT, Auckland Council BID team, local Iwi, Rodney Neighbourhood Watch, Many Fire Brigade, Future Whangaparaoa Trust, Whangaparaoa College Gateway Programme and with Hibiscus Zero Waste to name a few. Speaking of Hibiscus Zero Waste, there is an event on 29th November at Manly Bowling Club at 5:30 where they will share the new regulations you need to comply with and ideas and

stories from our own community for how you can make your business environmentally sustainable too. Watch the events page on our website [Business Whangaparaoa.co.nz](http://BusinessWhangaparaoa.co.nz) to register. That's 29th November.

Sarah also runs our casual networking, town meet-ups - where we introduce locals to locals often. And activation events like the Giant fun days. The first of these at Karepiro Road was a huge success and so was the one at Manly Village last Saturday. Watch out for the next one on 2nd Dec at Gulf Harbour Village Square which is going to now be combined alongside the now well known, Carols on the Canal event.

Other networking and key-note speaker events are run throughout the year, with the most recent, and final event for 2023, following this AGM with Grant Difford with his tips on how to get your business working for you. I personally enjoy hearing from Grant.

Sarah is the face of our brand Business Whangaparaoa - working for you, and I want to say a very sincere thank you to you Sarah for your contribution and acknowledge how much time and work actually goes into arranging the events and running the projects for our business community. You have always done so much more than is recognised and I assure you all, without Sarah we would not have this organisation.

As an organisation relying on membership subscriptions we are very thankful to you, our members, who not only help us help you financially, but also with feedback and ideas of what you want to see happen. You obviously share our vision of 'working for you'. If you are not already a member our membership is the most affordable in the HBC at \$199 per year.

I look forward to the warm weather and a prosperous future for all of us.

On this note, to ensure we are constantly working on new ideas we have decided as a board to open up the Chair role each year. My role. If you know of anyone who might be good for our community, or if you yourself might be interested, please come and see me after the event.

Thanks everyone, I do hope you are now staying on to enjoy a great evening of networking and business advice! Thank you for coming today.

Chris Norris

Chairperson, BW 2023