

# Chair Report

Annual General Meeting, 17 October 2023

## Intro and welcome

I'd like to acknowledge and thank a few people

Firstly, to my fellow Board members for volunteering their valuable time and contributions this year.

Gen Sage & Alex Bonham from the Waitemata Local Board for their input and advocacy.

Ben Seaborn from Safer Streets is our Keynote speaker and will present a report on crime prevention measures on Ponsonby Road.

Justin Keen, from Better Co, for making sure our books balance and completing the Financial Statements. Justin will present the Financial Report later tonight

Dr Grant Hewison, for offering to come along and 'chair' the Board election tonight

And to you all, our members. Thank you for coming along tonight and for your interest.

## Sales Results

We know 2023 has been challenging for several reasons and it's heartening to report that sales for the year July 2022 to June 2023, as reported by MarketView, grew by \$2 million to end the year at a total of \$318 million.

This figure represents a total of 5.9million transactions and our customers spent an average of \$54.30 last year.

Viv will go into further detail in her report and give you some key facts as to how our different categories including marketing & events performed over the period.

## Retail Vacancy Rates

Ponsonby remains a desirable place to be and we've welcomed several new venues, stores, and businesses to the street in the last year.

The Colliers Retail Vacancy Rates from December 2022 show that our district has the lowest retail vacancy level in Central Auckland at just under 2%.

To give your context, Parnell retail vacancy was 7%, Newmarket 21.1% and the CBD ranged from 5.5% in the downtown precinct to 17.8% near Aotea Square.

## New commercial & residential developments

Ponsonby is unique in that it's a true 'Urban Village' and watching new developments, both commercial and residential start or reach completion along the street is always exciting.

A special mention needs to be made to the exquisite renovation of the St Johns Church at 229 Ponsonby Road opposite Dizengoff. We are so grateful to the developers and look forward to seeing it restored to its former glory this coming year.

# PONSONBY

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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### Crime

I have no doubt that every Chair Report at every BID AGM this year includes this topic.

The 'rise in crime' narrative has been widely adopted by mainstream media and is a highly politicised election issue.

As you know, we ran an overnight security patrol trial between June 2022 and March 2023 to assess whether this would prevent crimes such as break ins and ram raids along the street.

This initiative cost us \$80 000 which is over 10% of our total operating budget and although we can assume it had some deterrent value, we can't accurately deduce how many crimes it prevented.

One patrol car covering the full 1.6 km length of our street is not enough.

It also did not cover daylight trading hours where we have seen an upturn in shoplifting and anti-social behaviour.

The Board has therefore decided to implement a 3-year project to install CCTV cameras along Ponsonby Road.

As mentioned, Ben Seaborn from Safer Cities is speaking to this next.

### Future Ponsonby

The Future Ponsonby Project was presented and discussed at last year's AGM with a view to presenting findings this year.

Unfortunately, the planned data collection & research program experienced some major setbacks this year with the Board deciding to secure a new partner for the project.

This has been done and we have hired Stuart Houghton from Boffa Miskell to complete this very important body of work.

The project will restart in Q4 2023 with a view to presenting findings at member meetings from the start of 2024.

### Strategic Plan 2024–2028

The PBA has started the process of developing a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2024–2028.

The Board's direction is to ensure the plan is :

- An evolution of our current strategic path.
- Underpinned by quantifiable data.
- To futureproof Ponsonby for years to come.

# PONSONBY

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### Our key priorities for 2024 are

The full Business Plan is available on our website or in the Annual Report.

The Board's key priorities for 2024 - 2025 are:

- To continue to grow & develop Eat Drink Love Ponsonby (restaurant festival) in 2024 and to bring back the 'Long Lunch' in May 2025.
- To secure a major Parade, Exhibition or Concert Series in Ponsonby by the end of 2025.
- To complete the Future Ponsonby Project by the end of 2025.
- To develop a 3-year plan to install a CCTV camera network along Ponsonby Road.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, my thanks to Viv Rosenberg for her hard work throughout this past year. guiding the board and ensuring our compliance. Her engagement with PBA members, and local council, and continuing to drive our flagship annual events whilst also bringing new and exciting proposals to the board.

### Propose and Accept

I'd like to ask someone to please propose that the Chair Report and 2024 Business Plan are accepted.

Thank you.



Brad Plamus