



# KAITAIA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION AGM 2023

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Kia ora, dobro dosli and welcome to our AGM for 2023. I'd like to take this opportunity to ask the current committee to stand and thank them for the 2022/23 year (applause). I would also like to thank Shirley Neho who stepped up and took over the role of Chair in June this year. A huge thank you to our co-ordinator, Ruth Arona, who has done a sterling job and as we have taken on new contracts or opportunities, Ruth has made things happen such as our Business Booster course co-ordinator which I will share more on shortly. We also had Joshua from Farmers join us part way through the year to fill a vacancy after a resignation from Angie Hefferman. You have been in great hands with the integrity, commitment, and contribution from all the committee members who have Kaitaia and the wider community in the centre of all decisions we make.

## THE YEAR AT A GLANCE...

### Constitution Changes

With changes to law, it was time to update our constitution to be in line with the changes. Thank you to David who led this for KBA and you will be voting on the changes later in the meeting.

### Te Hiku Business Boosters

KBA was fortunate to receive significant funding post covid to help our businesses in Te Hiku become more resilient. To ensure we were covering Te Hiku it was important to brand this accordingly so many are not aware that it has been KBA offering the huge range of courses we have fully or heavily subsidized in the last 12 months. We have touched 80 businesses with 220 attendees at 45 courses ranging from time management, first aid, working at heights, leadership, to mention just a few, offered by high quality presenters in our local area meaning that businesses only need to attend rather than have travel and accommodation time and costs added on top of course fees.

### Kaitaia Masterplan

After the concerns we had a couple of years ago about the possible housing to go into the old Pak'n Save site, we partnered with Te Hiku Community Board to have a Master plan for Kaitaia created. This has a small amount of funding left which is tagged to get a carparking analysis done for the town as there are some out of date no parking areas as well as unpainted parking available in other streets to help with the feeling of the 'shortage' we have in our main street.

**CCTV** remains an important role of KBA who support our surveillance and we had a large audit carried out last year by an independent Auckland company and are now slowly working through the recommendations. We are in the process of getting some new cameras and equipment quoted. We had hoped to apply for Proceeds of Crime Funding to do the whole lot but unfortunately this source has not been opened for applications yet. For those who are new, our CCTV system has been running for 13 years and as you can imagine technology has changed a lot. There are 172 cameras on our system. We are also backed well by Te Hiku Community Board who assists with \$6k per year towards monitoring of our camera system too. One of the possible options we are looking into for next year is to offer local businesses to support the monitoring of CCTV via KBA as it was originally done by First Security and with many businesses choosing to go with another security firm in town we are losing monitoring hours of the CCTV system up in the police station.

**ACC** representative for Northland area Philip Tana has been up a few times and attends the weekly Mayor's meetings. He has great info to assist businesses and is available to all businesses on the phone, on teams or in person if we

require. We learnt about fatality assistance for those who suffer tragedy in their family which is just one example of important information sharing.

The **Digital Sign** was installed in January last year and it has been a busy part of the co-ordinators role to keep on top of queries, uploads and invoicing. As the revitalisation project funded the cost of the sign we are able to offer incredibly cheap advertising and those using it are getting huge exposure for very little investment as the number of advertisers so far is still low. We continue to be on the lookout for a part time sales person keen to promote this sign on a commission basis so spread the word.

### **Networking Events**

We held a total of 3 networking events this year; Tradies night in April at the RSA & Meet the Candidates (in partnership with Kaitaia BPW) on 7 September and then our AGM tonight. Although the physical turnout is often disappointing, when we live stream them, we get hundreds of views within 24 hours so our audience is a lot larger than it looks.

### **Crime Concerns**

This is a topic that is coming up most months now. Like most areas in NZ we have had ram raids, daylight theft and damage and violent/threatening behaviour in our local shops. We have had City Safe share about their experiences, and it has come up several times in the Mayors meetings. Mayor Moko is keen to have Kaitaia experiment with ambassadors that roam around the streets and shops, however we have not been able to work out funding and who will pay for the training, the safety equipment and the monitoring of this ambassador group.

**Landlord issues** – building complaints and rent/lease increases are a common complaint. An email was sent out in July asking if there was interest in being incorporated into the new building planned for the old Pak'n Save site but had very little response. One positive is that FNHL invited a representative from KBA to sit on project working group and that is Sheryl who has her wealth of town planning info to share and can ensure Kaitaia's voice is heard.

Bylaw hasn't gained any traction yet with FNDC but has been raised at the weekly Mayor's meetings several times now.

### **Student Scholarship**

October is when our scholarships close and we have a total of 4 applications so far but there is still time! For those of you new to attending KBA, our scholarship now supports a business in the BID area that is employing a young person who may need assistance with anything to get started like basic tools, some training or PPE equipment.

## **THE YEAR AHEAD...**

Work to be done includes Kaitaia's **Civil Defence plan** for our CBD – we have commented it on this for the last two years now but a meeting has happened with our interim chair, Shirley Noho and Sarah Boniface who is our local representative and is also our guest speaker this evening.

Now we are nearing the end of the year we would like to continue to be the conduit for businesses to have **courses** run but would need to be split amongst the attendees for things like First Aid that have a minimum number of attendees. Ruth can arrange the date and venue and once we have 10 attendees we can make it happen and then split the cost with the businesses involved; this means you can keep staff upskilled without having to worry about sending the entire staff or covering the entire cost on your own.

So I'd like to end by thanking you all for continuing to support us and attending the events we host. We rely on word of mouth so please encourage other business owners to read our emails, follow our social media posts and encourage people to continue to come to town and support local business.

We look forward to a positive 2023/24 year ahead for us all and I wish the new committee all the best on continuing to work for the businesses and wider community of Te Hiku.

Andrea Panther