

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Kia Ora, good evening, it is my pleasure to deliver my ninth annual report, as chairperson of the Papatoetoe Central Main Street Society.

Businesses throughout New Zealand have remained challenged by inflation, rising living costs, and brazen crime. Additionally, our retailers have encountered sustained disruptions due to the ongoing construction along St George St, and with the closures of Tavern Lane and Chamber Lane.

With the reduction in foot traffic, there will be relief provided from the additional housing developments which have been completed along Rangitoto Rd and St George St, and the expected reopening of Chamber Lane by Christmas, growing our community and potential patrons.

In light of these issues, we must remain resilient and support patronage by ensuring our goods and services provide value, in order to keep our township attractive and affordable. We can contribute by building good relationships with our community through engagement, for example Jess continues to run a free Tai Chi class for senior citizens in our area.

We have advocated for a return of the police station on the main street, more police patrols, and welcomed Wayne Brown's council compliance wardens to our township who have made some visits, but we require more assistance. We must report all incidents to the appropriate authorities and support each other. We have been maintaining the lights which not only draw people into our town, but also provide safety, and are seeking more options to brighten St George St.

Since our last Annual General Meeting, despite a lack of funding, we have continued our well received Town Centre events and promotions in accordance with our strategic plan, which aims to generate traffic and cultivate positive attitudes to encourage our community to support our businesses.

We held a fantastic Santa parade and Christmas party with food stalls, free concert and free kids fun park, which was attended by thousands in December.

Santa with his elves made his annual visit on his sleigh to our Town Centre over a number of days, to spread the Christmas Spirit. Christmas carols were sung by a choir in front of the Town Hall, which along with the heritage lamp poles, were adorned with festive decorations.

We laid wreaths and attended ceremonies to pay our respects during ANZAC commemorations in April.

In March, we had a successful Multicultural and Chinese New Year celebration, it included cultural performances from Polynesian, Scottish, Chinese groups, Kapa Haka, and a lion dance. With family entertainment, train rides, face painting, live music, and many food stalls, our Town

Centre was showcased as an exciting welcoming environment to visit. This event was a roaring success with the public.

Easter festivities included visits from the Easter bunny in the Old Papatoetoe Town Centre, giving out chocolate eggs to shops and patrons. Mother's day was celebrated in May with the handing out of chocolates in the main street to all. For Matariki the Town was lit up with our tree lights in June. And for Diwali the Town was also dazzled with lights, sweets and lollies were handed out to the shops and public in October.

Looking forward to the immediate future, we are holding the Papatoetoe Santa Parade followed by a Christmas Party on Wednesday 4th December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee and Town Centre Manager Rana Judge for their support and efforts over the past year.

A special thank you to Executive Committee Member Jessica Lim who has poured her heart into continued hard work, time, and contributions towards coordination of promotions and events.

I wish you all well, be safe, stay healthy, and thank you. Let's continue to support one another and work together for a better Old Papatoetoe! Kia Kaha!

Albert Lim (Chairperson)