

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Kia Ora,

I am pleased to present the Chairman's Report for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. This has been a challenging year for the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society, marked by significant changes, financial difficulties, and a collective effort to navigate a difficult operational landscape.

At our Special General Meeting (SGM) held in June 2024, we presented our Audited Financial Statements for June 2023 and outlined our Business Plan for 2024-2025. All resolutions were successfully passed, and the SGM provided an opportunity to address some critical issues inherited from the previous executive committee, particularly concerning financial mismanagement.

One of the most pressing challenges we faced was a \$42,000 debt owed to the Inland Revenue Department (IRD). This liability resulted from the previous executive committee's failure to compile and submit audited financial statements for the June 2023 period.

Due to this non-compliance, Auckland Council and the Otara Papatoetoe Local Board made the decision to withdraw our BID-targeted rates for 2024-2025. Consequently, no targeted rates were charged to local businesses for the year, leading to a loss of essential funding for our operations. This setback placed immense strain on our ability to deliver services to the town centre.

Despite these challenges, we successfully elected an 11-member executive committee at the SGM. Following this, the committee convened monthly to discuss operational matters and plan the way forward. One of the most difficult decisions we made during this period was the unfortunate necessity to let go of Anne Nicholas, as we were unable to afford her salary without targeted rates funding.

Additionally, we vacated the Town Centre Manager's office at the end of August and worked with electricity and internet service providers to close our accounts. We also approached our landlord to inform them of our financial situation, and we have since managed to prioritise essential expenses such as email, accounting, auditing, and conducting the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

I must acknowledge the personal situation I encountered when I was violently attacked by burglars at my jewellery shop on 23 June 2024 and was hospitalised for a week. This incident

highlighted the very real security challenges our community faces. Upon my recovery, we reconvened the executive team, resolved outstanding matters, and ensured that our accounts for 30 June 2024 were prepared and submitted for auditing.

Looking forward, we have formulated a comprehensive business plan for the next 12 months, which has been approved by the Auckland BID Team. Once this AGM is concluded, we will begin preparations for a crucial BID ballot, which will be held in March 2025. This ballot will determine whether the Hunters Corner Town Centre Society continues to operate as a BID-funded entity beyond 1 July 2025.

Members will be asked to vote on whether to continue operations through targeted rates funding for 2025-2026 or dissolve the BID entirely.

To ensure the success of this ballot, we will need to raise approximately \$5,000. I urge all members to participate actively in fundraising efforts to secure the future of our town centre. A well-functioning town centre requires dedicated personnel, including a BID Manager and a Crime Prevention Officer, to foster a safe and secure environment for both businesses and customers. Without such a team in place, we will continue to face issues such as crime, and without a strong advocate on our behalf, our town centre will miss out on opportunities for growth and development.

I would like to express our gratitude to the Auckland BID Team and the Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board for their unwavering support and guidance in helping us navigate challenging times and ensuring we meet our BID obligations. A special thanks also goes to Rana Judge and Jay Mistry for their dedication and valuable contributions to our society. Their time and effort have been greatly appreciated.

I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and encourage everyone to take part in the discussions and decisions that will shape the future of Hunters Corner. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and secure town centre for the benefit of all.

I wish all the best to the new Board.

**Gurdeep Singh**  
**Chairperson**