

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

In the wake of COVID-19, changes to societal norms, rising living costs, and rampant crime present additional challenges to businesses across New Zealand. Retailers must adjust to the dynamic spending habits of their patrons, but also continue to provide value to any inflated pricings. We must report all incidents and support each other.

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 aim to generate traffic and cultivate positive attitudes to encourage our community to support our businesses.

We did not let rain ruin our parade when we successfully held the Papatoetoe Santa parade and attracted thousands of spectators, followed by a packed Christmas party with free concert and free kid's fun park.

Santa with his elves made his annual visit on his sleigh to our Town Centre over a number of days in December, 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. For Chinese New Year, we held performances in front of the Town Hall, with a traditional lion dance going around the Town Centre. Lollies and balloons were handed to children and face painting was offered.

Easter celebrations included bunnies handing our easter eggs to shops, public, and especially children, over several days.

ANZAC day was commemorated with traditional wreath laying.

Our inaugural Food festival was held in May to showcase our Town Centre as an exciting friendly environment, with great food and performances including dancing and live music. With public feedback being overwhelmingly positive, this new event was a resounding achievement.

We celebrated Matariki with a festival in July, it included cultural performances from Polynesian, Scottish, Chinese groups, and of course Kapa Haka. Free face painting, balloons, sausages and lollies were provided, and additional free food was provided by the Hare Krishna community group.

Matching the theme of the Matariki, I presented Korowai on behalf of the Society, to outstanding contributors to Papatoetoe, and the recipients were: Ross & Grace Robertson, Noel Robinson, David Wyllie, Jenny Clarke, Father Maurice Ford, Jeff Tukua, and the Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board.

The dazzling lights around our Town, much like our roading, have been undergoing maintenance, and we are pleased to announce the addition of the Burnside Park tree light fixtures, which aim to generate traffic, increase safety through illumination, and to celebrate festivals all year round. For Diwali, the Town was lit up with our tree lights, sweets and lollies were handed out to the shops and public.

In these uncertain times, it is paramount to not only embrace the revitalisation of Old Papatoetoe, but to also contribute to it. For instance, Jess has started a free Tai Chi class for senior citizens, which is an example of building good relationships with our community.

Looking forward to the immediate future, we are holding the Papatoetoe Santa Parade followed by a Christmas Party on Wednesday 6th 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 for her 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