

Glen Innes Business Association Annual Report 2021

Once again this past year has been affected by Covid 19 and the ensuing ramifications with lockdowns in February and then since the middle of August.

At Level 4, only some of our businesses were open under essential services - Nicola Johns Pharmacy, Cox's Pharmacy, East Tamaki Healthcare, Chemist Warehouse and PAK'nSave, superettes and dairies. Ministry of Social Development in Glen Innes was also open, but only available to the public by telephone. The incredible volunteers at the Citizens Advice Bureau and Ruapotaka Marae made sure that their respective food banks continued to provide valuable support to people in need.

Our businesses have continued to adapt as we have gone to level three and a number have been able to trade using online and contactless methods. The announcement this week of more of our retail stores being able to open is a huge relief and we hope that our restaurants and close contact businesses such as hairdressers and barbers will be able to open at the end of this month.

We were delighted to be able to support ~~host~~ the Matariki Light Trail once again this year and this year's event was probably the best run yet with thousands attending during the week-long event and for the final Fireworks finale. We were also proud to support Bradley Lane Illuminated in April and Bradley Lane Project will go ahead in November operating within Covid-19 safety guidelines. Matariki Light Trail has permanently shifted its focus to an educational programme facilitated by Ruapotaka Marae, and both Bradley Lane events are facilitated by The Good, The Bad Charitable Trust. Thank you to Tamaki Regeneration and Maungakiekie-Tamaki Local Board for continuing to support our signature events.

My thanks to our 2019/2020 Committee, and to our staff, Gary, Debbie, Vaakore and Lopeti for their hard work on the ground.

Our Pacific Warden, Lopeti Ma'aupepe, has continued to do a great job providing a security presence in the town centre each evening. Lopeti is very highly regarded by the retailers and also by our local Community Policing Team. Lopeti patrols Monday – Wednesday between 4pm and 8pm, and from 6pm-10pm on Thursday and Friday nights.

Covid-19 restrictions interrupted our CCTV installation programme, but we are in the planning stages of installing three new cameras and two replacement cameras. These will take our tally to 34 cameras.

Our normal business structure has been somewhat affected by Debbie's absence over recent months due to illness. We thank everybody for their patience and understanding, and we are pleased that Debbie will be back in the office full-time in the New Year.

During December 2020 and January 2021, we were able to host several entertainers in Glen Innes Library, centred on children's entertainment and crafts for the school holidays.

Earlier this year we did host a network event 'Coffee With A Cop', but due to our staffing issues and then Covid-19 restrictions we decided to not host another one until early 2021.

GIBA has continued to grow its online presence through its website www.gleninnesvillage.co.nz and Facebook page. Updated constantly, these pages act as a portal and highlight other businesses and events in Glen Innes. Our Facebook page has almost 1400 likes.