



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mangere Bridge Business Association Inc

Having assumed the role of Chairperson just over a year ago from the very experienced Pauline Anderson, I'll admit it was a daunting task to step into such capable shoes. Fortunately, I've had tremendous support throughout the year from Kate Adams, our highly skilled Village Manager, and Corinne Cameron, our incredibly organised Office Manager, whose exceptional organisational skills have kept everything running smoothly.

I'm deeply grateful to both. As any newcomer learns, everything takes a little longer when you're still discovering the "hows and whys" of how things are done — but with patience and teamwork, we got there in the end.

Through their strong community connections — both being long-term members of the Mangere Bridge community through family, school, and work — Kate and Corinne have brought in a wonderful group of volunteers to help with events and fundraising. This spirit of collaboration was especially evident during the Quiz Night and the Fun Run, where local enthusiasm and commitment shone brightly.

When reflecting on whether the Business Association achieved its goals this year, I turned to our mission statement:

To create a vibrant and thriving business environment by fostering local connections, promoting economic growth, and maintaining the unique character of Mangere Bridge Village.

At first glance, I believe we are certainly meeting these goals — and in many cases, exceeding them. But let's take a closer look at a few highlights from the past year.

THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE SESSIONS

This event was, for me, one of the year's real standouts. It was a brilliant way to keep the summer vibe alive even as most of us returned to work. The band was fantastic — lively, engaging, and inclusive — encouraging everyone to sing, dance, and simply enjoy being together in the village.

For our local food businesses along the strip, the benefits were immediate: more people out and about meant more customers through the doors. It also introduced new visitors to what Mangere Bridge has to offer. Beyond that, it became a genuine networking opportunity — a chance for business owners, staff, and locals to relax, connect, and celebrate community.

I'd strongly encourage businesses to support these evenings and use them as team-building opportunities — bring your staff, suppliers, or families down for a meal and some live music. Events like this perfectly reflect our mission by creating a vibrant and thriving business environment, fostering connections, and showcasing the unique character of our village.

WINTER QUIZ NIGHT

Another fantastic community event — created *by the community, for the community*. The night was full of laughter (and a healthy dose of rivalry between tables!). Kate and Corinne once again rallied an amazing team of helpers who provided everything from quiz questions to food, service, and cleanup.

Local businesses generously sponsored prizes, and the Mangere Bridge Bowling Club hosted the event, benefitting from bar takings on the night. While it's not a major fundraiser, it's exactly the kind of gathering that strengthens our community and reflects our mission in action — supporting local connections and celebrating what makes Mangere Bridge unique.

MANGERE BRIDGE FUN RUN

The Fun Run continues to go from strength to strength and is now firmly established on the Auckland running calendar. It offers something for everyone — from elite athletes to casual walkers — and 2025's event was textbook perfect. The weather was kind, the atmosphere was upbeat, and the sense of community spirit was everywhere.

Many local businesses and groups used it as a team-building opportunity, setting their own challenges and enjoying the camaraderie that comes from taking part. It's quickly becoming one of our flagship events and an excellent fundraiser for the Business Association.

CLOSING REMARKS

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to Kate and Corinne for their tireless work, energy, and dedication. Their experience and commitment ensure that the Mangere Bridge Business Association continues to deliver on its mission —

to create a vibrant and thriving business environment by fostering local connections, promoting economic growth, and maintaining the character of Mangere Bridge Village.

It's been a rewarding year, and I look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Maria Mortimer

Chairperson – Mangere Bridge Village Business Association Inc

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