

View from the Chair

Steve Roper



Village vision clearly in focus

Optometrist Steve Roper, *pictured*, has a clear vision for the Mt Eden Village Business Association and a strong board to help him govern the town centre's BID programme.

Steve has held the OPSM franchise in Mt Eden for eight years and was appointed to the local business association in 2014.

He was shoulder-tapped to take over as chair last year (2016) and eased into the role with support from his predecessor, Frances Loo, who remains on the board.

"I still have on my 'training wheels' to some extent, but with help from Frances and the rest of the board, it's been a fairly smooth transition," he says.

When asked to describe the three main benefits of the BID programme, Steve replied:

"Firstly, it provides structure. Secondly, its [strategic framework](#) helps set a clear direction and, thirdly, the funded work programme allows us to deliver real benefits to our local business community."

So, what advice would Steve give to someone thinking about standing for the board of a business association?

"Get involved! You meet some great people and become passionate about your local business area and community. It's a great opportunity to make a real difference to your town centre or commercial precinct. If you invest the time and energy, you and your business will reap the rewards," says Steve.



- **BID established in 2000**
- **138 businesses**
- **FUN FACT: Mt Eden Village was the first place to shop on a Saturday.**
- www.mounteden.co.nz