

View from the Chair – Tony Sands



Strong governance, strong BID

Accountant Tony Sands, *pictured*, has chaired the Milford Business Association for almost seven years and forms a formidable team with Town Centre Manager Murray Hill who was on board two years earlier.

Tony's financial skills and previous directorship experience have helped to provide strong governance.

"We operate a Xero accounting system which helps promote transparency," he says. "The operational side of governance is also relatively straightforward. Murray is a strong reporter, providing extensive information which our committee members are happy to discuss with him."

In line with governance-to-governance protocols, the business association's committee has enjoyed a close working relationship with the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for over six years.

"We've had fantastic support from them and, in particular, the local board members whom they appoint to represent them on our committee. Mike Sheehy has attended our last two meetings and is a valuable conduit and contributor, prior to that Joseph Bergin and Mike Cohen were the same."

Established in 2008, the Milford business improvement programme has achieved a lot over the years.

"Having the BID is without doubt the most effective way for local businesses to collaborate and promote the area. It has provided the maximum level of service and generated results for Milford that could not have been achieved without the BID mechanism in place," Tony says.



Branded "everyone's place", the Milford town centre is becoming more ethnically diverse as shown by the culturally diverse cuisines on offer.

The *Vive La France* promotion, pictured, attracted many shoppers to Milford back in March.