



After more than 35 years as an award-winning restaurateur in Henderson, **Garry Bates**, *pictured*, was part of the establishment team of the renewed [Central Park Henderson Business Association](#) (CPHBA) which achieved BID status this year.

A no-nonsense straight-shooter - who represented the NZ Air Force in shooting - Garry has a deep affection for the West, the people and business, and says the CPHBA BID programme can add tremendous value to the area identified as a metropolitan centre in the Auckland Plan.



Straight-shooter aims high for the West

Garry Bates was trained as a chef in the Royal New Zealand Air Force, successfully representing both New Zealand and the RNZAF in his trade. During that time, as a marksman, he also represented the Air Force and Marlborough at shooting.

Professionally, he hit the bulls-eye when he was seconded to the residence of the Prime Minister, cooking for the Cabinet and State Leaders including the Queen.



Restaurant ownership was a natural progression for the proud Westie, owning award-winning Henderson restaurants, Michaels for 27 years, and The Falls.

“Having been in business in Henderson for 36 years and as a long-time resident, I feel confident to comment about business and community in our town,” Garry said.

“One of the most important roles the Central Park Henderson Business Association (CPHBA) provides is as a contact point for business. Whether it’s business to business, companies wanting to engage or to set up in Henderson, or as a forum for networking.

“Also, we engage with our Henderson-Massey Local Board and Auckland Council with regard to planning, input, and providing a voice for our members.”



- See [BID establishment campaign information](#)

“Much of the work of the CPHBA does on behalf of business, goes unnoticed by many, be it advocacy, engaging with our College members, local board, Auckland Transport, Police etc.

“CPHBA has been successful with communications; via email, the ‘WE street’ magazine and our Business After 5’s (BA5). Our BA5 events have been on an upward path, regularly hosting 160 business related attendees often with a waitlist of 30 to 40.”

Much of the association’s work has been achieved on a voluntary basis by the CPHBA board (pictured below) – including administration, holding meetings, and running events.

“This could not continue as previously, to the BID establishment, for obvious reasons in the current environment with each board member having their own businesses to run.

“Now with achieving the BID and given the Covid-19 exceptional circumstances today, there is much work to do in the recovery for local business.

“With runs already on the board, we are now in a position to assist meaningfully with planning already underway,” Garry said.

- [WE street magazine](#)

CHAMPION SPEAKS UP

One of the BID’s champions, Exeloo’s Craig van Asch shared his views and aspirations for Tāmaki Makaurau’s 50th BID programme:

“The business community in west Auckland is a vibrant and well networked group. The successful implementation of this BID would serve to strengthen local ties and attract new investment needed in a developing precinct. Further as a gateway to fast growing communities in Whenuapai, Kumeu and Swanson a strong business environment in the CPH area would serve to support these new families and create a stronger Auckland”. – CRAIG VAN ASCH.



Henderson-Massey Local Board has appointed its Chair **Chris Carter** and **Brooke Loader** (far right) to liaise with the Central Park Henderson Business Association.



You may be interested in

- [Another step towards BID in Henderson](#) (May 2020)
- [Henderson on ‘Hendo’ and shared prosperity](#) (July 2018)