



The [Devonport-Takapuna Local Board](#) extends from Sunnynook and Castor Bay in the north to the Stanley Bay and Devonport suburbs in the south. Its western boundary is the northern motorway.

It's home to three business improvement districts:



George Wood
Chair



By George, he knows his BIDs

George Wood, *pictured*, has a remarkable memory and his recollection of BID-operating town centres dates back several decades to the North Shore's first BID, Northcote.

The former Police North-West Area Commander, North Shore City Mayor and Auckland Councillor assumed the chair of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board last month and represents it on the Takapuna Beach BID's governance committee.

Mr Wood attended Northcote College, and his friends included retailers operating at the Northcote Town Centre, *pictured below*, which officially became a BID in 1996.

“Security was the focus of the Northcote BID and they did an excellent job,” George Wood said.



How local boards impact BIDs

- The local board approves the establishment and expansion of all BID programmes
- Local boards are delegated the authority to recommend to the governing body to strike the BID targeted rate in its area as part of the Annual Plan process
- Local boards maintain regular contact with the business association operating the BID programme to keep their local economic development and other interests aligned
- The board may appoint a local board BID representative to the executive committee of each BID/business association to serve as a conduit of information to and from council.

“Northcote had issues with hoodlums and drug dealers hanging around the shops. Tagging and other crimes made for a bad place to do business and shop.

“The BID programme funded security guards and night-time patrols. It was a huge change for the better.

“Today, the town centre’s a model of multi-cultural harmony with Asian retailers operating alongside Maori, Pacific Island and European shopkeepers,” he said.

The Shore’s former top cop recalls that the North Harbour commercial area learned from the proven crime prevention initiatives at Northcote.

“There were a lot of burglaries around the Albany Basin - the area’s night-time economy was largely criminal. It became a BID in 2008 and now Business North Harbour is a sophisticated organisation with excellent security and a broad range of services to a growing membership.”

The long-time resident of Forrest Hill remembers the establishment of BID programmes at Birkenhead and along the Shore’s east coast, including Takapuna Beach (2001), Milford (2009) and Devonport (2014).

George Wood points to the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan 2017 which recognises the importance of vibrant town centres, *excerpts below.*



Victoria Road, Devonport.

1 metropolitan centre in Takapuna - and 3 town centres in Sunnynook, Devonport, and Milford

Outcome 5: Our area has a thriving local economy and vibrant, unique town centres

We are committed to supporting the commercial viability and prosperity of our town centres and helping local businesses to be sustainable and successful.

Hurstmere Road, Takapuna



“The BIDs operate across a wide spectrum of issues affecting our communities,” he says.

“Not only do they make a significant contribution to the local economy, the BIDs’ impact is also felt in social, cultural and environmental areas.”

Takapuna has become a recognised metropolitan centre in the council’s Auckland Plan with its population set to more treble in the next 30 years.

George Wood is a non-voting member of the Takapuna Beach Business Association (TBBA) and attends its monthly meetings, contributing to a two-way information exchange between BID and local board.

“Takapuna’s changing markedly, and this is reflected in the strategic and business plans of both the BID and (local) board.

“With growth comes both gain and pain,” he said.

“There’s no doubt that the beautiful seaside atmosphere is the main attraction of not only Takapuna, but also Milford and Devonport.

“That’s why it’s vital that our water quality at beaches, lake and waterways is as good as it can be in an urban environment.

“Back in the day, our (former) North Shore City Council started to invest heavily in upgrading our infrastructure through initiatives like Project CARE.



“Trading on our wonderful environment is the cornerstone of our businesses’ success and long may that continue,” George Wood said.

“Today, we know we still have a long way to go to meet the community’s expectations. This council is looking to accelerate improvements and, as a local board, we applaud this move.”

George Wood praises the governance and management of TBBA.

“I’ve enjoyed working with the board and BID managers, Terry Holt and now Terence Harpur. It’s a well-run ship.

“Every business association operating a BID programme needs to manage those funds (BID targeted rates) in a prudent and transparent way.

“As the people paying the targeted rate, the businesses are looking to get a good return on their money. And it should never be a substitute for what the council does, paid for from the general rates,” he said.

FOOTNOTE: The Devonport Business Association is chaired by Dianne Hale, friend and former colleague of George Wood. Dianne was North Shore City’s Deputy Mayor from 1998-2007, the three terms of George’s mayoralty. They made a great team.



