



“We all have a part to play in our town’s success”

Serving on a business association board can be a great opportunity to enhance professional skillsets while giving back to your community.

A great case in point is senior banking executive and Newmarket Business Association Chair, **Mark Hill-Rennie**, *pictured*.

Mark has served on the NBA board for three years, chairing it for the past year. His association with Newmarket goes back a while, most recently as ANZ’s Regional Manager Business Banking.

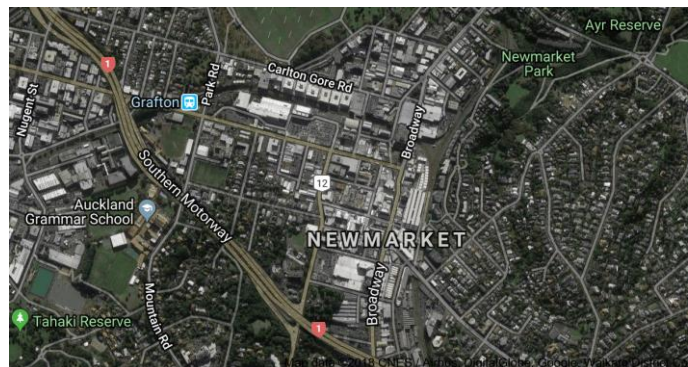
We asked Mark how being on the precinct’s governing body has advanced his own professional development.

“It has really been an opportunity to get more involved in my local community. I think it has also assisted me in learning more about what being on a board means as opposed to leading a team,” Mark says.

NBA works closely with Waitemata Local Board (WLB) at both executive and governance-to-governance levels.

“We discuss issues at board level and Mark (Knoff-Thomas) our CEO meets regularly with (WLB representative) Rob Thomas, as well as Chair Pippa Coom, and Economic Development representative Adriana Christie.

“As a board we provide feedback on Waitemata Local Board issues and Mark has presented at various deputations in the past year on our behalf,” the chair said.



Newmarket’s goal is to be viewed as Auckland’s premier urban lifestyle destination.



Newmarket Business Association has just refreshed its Strategic Plan (2018-2021).

It seeks to be *“the authority on all matters related to Newmarket for all stakeholders, and at all times”*.



NBA represents a group of more than 1900 building and business owners located on the fringe of Auckland’s central business district.

Mark Hill-Rennie said NBA’s core work is to advance the economic and business interests of members within Newmarket’s business improvement district. This includes promotions, events and ensuring the safety and security of the area.

“As a board, we understand that economic development is much broader and more complex than this. To enable the development of the Newmarket precinct, we work widely with the whole community, recognising that we all have a part to play in our town’s success.”

“One of our strategic imperatives is to optimise stakeholder engagement – this encompasses diversity and inclusion,” he said.

“In the past 12 to 18 months we have worked hard towards working more closely with mana whenua, who now take a major role in our ANZAC Day commemorations, and the Chinese business community with translated communications for members.

“We’ve also supported our LGBTIQ community during the Pride Festival and, more recently, sponsored a Rainbow NZ charity fundraiser, plus ran an art competition involving the local primary school to design our street flags for the heritage festival.

“This area of diversity, engagement, inclusion and representation is a pivotal element to our strategy moving forward. Our own board is 50/50 male female, and this will continue post the AGM, and will also include more cultural diversity.

“Our board is a representation of the business community in Newmarket, each with our own views from our different sectors. One of our new incoming board members represents a large property portfolio which will also be invaluable.”



So what advice would Mark Hill-Rennie give business association members (BID affiliates) who are thinking of standing for election to their board?

“Think about the skills and ideas that you will bring to the table. It is important that as a board member that you are thinking about the whole catchment and not just a limited number of businesses.

“It is also important that you are involved in the governance and vision for the association but do not try to run it. The job of day to day operations is for the CEO and their staff so make sure you have the right team and let them get on with what has been agreed to.”