



Rob brings retail nous to Remuera

Rob Chemaly took up the BID management reins at [Remuera](#) – his home suburb for over 20 years - in late January.

Personifying the affluent town centre's *live, life, local* branding, the former senior retail executive holds degrees in both commerce and law.

We asked Rob why he applied and what were his three key goals for 2020.

“There is a strategic leadership job to do in this role that is attractive to me,” he said.

Firstly, I want to ensure that the catchment has a suitable retail offer for this community through engagement with landlords and tenants.

“Secondly, to ensure that all tenancies are filled, and thirdly, to work constructively with Auckland Council, Ōrākei Local Board and other stakeholders to ensure that the BID is attractive and sustainable.”

While the job – vacated by Shelley McArthur-Dye in December - was advertised as a 30 hours-a-week, part-time role, Rob’s realistically expecting that more time will be needed to get the challenging job done.



Clonbern Road car park



One of the town centre's more controversial issues has centred on the Clonbern Road car park, *see separate story*, with Rob Chemaly praising the council's work to date.

“Certainly, (Panuku’s contractor) did a great job in getting this done quickly, which has helped immensely. However, we are exploring the opportunity of possibly constructing a temporary structure that will serve the community whilst the sale of the property is conducted which I am sure may well take some time.”

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The Clonbern Road car park reopens to Remuera residents and visitors this weekend after the demolition of the concrete structure. The demolition was completed on schedule and the car park surface has been resealed.

Orakei ward Councillor Desley Simpson says the work has been completed very quickly with disruption to the community minimised as much as possible.

“Initially we expected this work to take up to eight weeks. I am extremely pleased that Panuku and its contractors have worked very closely with the Remuera business community to complete all the work in just three weeks, during our quiet summer period. In addition, the contractors have been able to allow access to parts of the car park as the demolition progressed,” she says.

“The car park now has approximately 126 parking spaces which are even wider than the original sites for Remuera visitors to use.”

In December the Finance and Performance Committee approved the Clonbern Road car park site to be sold having exhausted all efforts to open the top level of the car park.

The sale will allow for prospective purchasers to create a mixed-use development in the village and provide more car parking than is currently available.

“The sale presents a very exciting opportunity in the village, as any development must include a minimum of 200 car parks to serve the local community and visitors to Remuera,” says Cllr Simpson.



The Ōrākei Local Board has appointed its Deputy Chairperson - and one of its new members - **Sarah Powrie**, *pictured*, to liaise with the area's three BIDs: Remuera, St Heliers and Ellerslie.

