

View from the Chair: Tony Dench, Takapuna Beach



Governance nous, local passion

Tony Dench brings a wealth of governance experience to the role of chairing the Takapuna Beach Business Association (TBBA), including the banking sector, a secondary school board and even setting up a charitable trust.

With a background in senior executive roles, Tony understands the role of management – and the difference between that and governance.

The Northern Irish-born Bayswater resident was elected TBBA Chair last September (2017), just three months after joining the board, replacing the retiring Julian Brown.

“While new to the board, I’d had a good deal to do with the business association and its BID programme over several years,” says Tony.

“As Chair I hit the floor running, including having to recruit a new CEO.”

“Fortunately, we didn’t have to look far to find our replacement for Terry Holt. Terence Harpur had been on our board for about a year and he proved to be the outstanding candidate, fitting in perfectly.”

Tony believes the association is in great shape and has a solid foundation on which to continue to build Takapuna’s reputation as a great place to invest, work, live and enjoy.



“Dave Donaldson, Peter White and, most recently, Terry Holt have done a great job to get us to where we are now. It’s time to harvest the fruits of that labour.”

In line with earlier interviews with [Terry](#) and [Terence](#), Tony is keen to take advantage of the growth opportunities that are coming Takapuna’s way.

“TBBA has surveyed its members and results showed 4.31/5.0, or 86%, ‘very strong’ support for further development in central Takapuna,” he says.

The BID programme has been working closely with the council and key stakeholders as Takapuna evolves into an inclusive metropolitan centre.

“We engage with our retailers, property owners, the wider community and even our neighbours. It drives a good conversation across our stakeholders, and we can leverage that energy.”

Tony believes maximising the opportunities to further develop central Takapuna would bring about greater patronage to dining and retail outlets by providing Takapuna with a critical population level that could take it to being a 10am-10pm destination.

“A major factor in this will be working with our great group of members toward a common goal to grow their businesses as well as helping navigate our community through this change,” he says.

Collaboration with neighbouring BIDs has always been a strength on the north shore. Takapuna Beach, Devonport and Milford are, once again, looking to hold a combined governance training programme for its board members.

ABOUT TONY DENCH

- Chief Executive of SHARE NZ, a Takapuna-based financial services co-operative.
- Graduate of Committee for Auckland’s Future Auckland Leaders Programme (Leadership & Governance)
- Former board member and co-founder of the Auckland Angel Landlords Trust charity

