



For nearly half a century, local legend **Ken Penney**, *pictured*, has known what makes Manurewa tick.

The barber has worked in the southern town centre since 1970, chaired the local business association for eight of his 14-year service – and he's also in his ninth year on the Manurewa Local Board.

We asked Ken to tell us more.

View from the (barber) chair

Ken Penney's profession gives him the cutting edge in community engagement, while his community service on Manurewa's business association and local board puts him in the prime position to make a positive difference to the place he loves.

Customers have been opening up to Ken while in his barber's chair since Keith Holyoake was Prime Minister and a haircut cost just \$1.25.

Without breaching any confidences, we asked Ken what the shorn have shared about Manurewa over the past five decades.



"I have seen up to five generations of families grow up in Manurewa."

"Generally, discussions are about the community as a whole," Ken says.

"This includes the town centre, how long they have been here, where they work, what they do, through to their sporting contacts.

"People also talk about how the population has changed over the years. Overall, they tell a balance of things. Things that both concern them and things they are proud of. They all however like to call Manurewa home."

Ken puts what he learns to good use.

"The information is brought through to meetings, and any suggestions or complaints are addressed at committee level.

"A lot of positive feedback comes through about the general feel of the town centre."

According to Ken:

Manurewa's greatest strengths:

1. Location, especially now that the station has moved to its current location
2. Transport – several public transportation links
3. The people of Manurewa are loyal, genuine and humble

Manurewa's greatest opportunities:

1. Business opportunities - even though a lot of established names have left, there is scope and potential for new businesses to come in
2. Redevelopment potential - room for redevelopment and new development. e.g. **Bloom** retirement village
3. There is space and opportunity for a community centre.

We scanned the Manurewa Local Board Plan 2017 and asked Ken – a third-term local board member - what role the local board played in the town centre steering group.

“The steering group was an initiative led by the current Local Board Chair, Angela Dalton. It’s been running for six years and has successfully implemented several projects in Manurewa.”

“We are lucky as we work in partnership with the local board on the revitalisation of our town centre.”

Collaboration is a strength in Manurewa, with the business association working closely with the local board and neighbouring town centres and industrial precincts.

We asked Ken Penney about what prompted the MBA to reach out to Clendon Park, 3.6 kms west of the Manurewa Town Centre.

“We (MBA) see Clendon as part of us. Clendon had no established business association. To be part of our association it seemed appropriate to align the wider Manurewa Local Board areas as part of one umbrella representing both the Manurewa and Clendon town centres,” he said.

“The Manurewa Local Board is a key stakeholder and considers Clendon to be a special priority area.

“With the experiences that we’ve had in Manurewa, we felt that we could better address the issues being faced in Clendon by using our existing resources, systems and processes that have already been established. One example is the administrative function of the Clendon Business Association is facilitated through our (MBA) office.”

Manurewa is proposing a BID expansion which, if successful, would take effect in July 2020.

“The key benefits will be growth by having more people, more shoppers and increased investment,” Ken Penney said.

“Also, the expansion plans create an environment of inclusion as one Manurewa for all our business and community groups.”

PICTURED RIGHT: Another of Manurewa’s favourite sons, Sir John Walker, is immortalised in bronze in the heart of Manurewa Town Centre.



Whakaotinga 2: He ōhanga ā-rohe whaihua e tautoko ana i te iwi kāinga

Outcome 2: A prosperous local economy supporting local people

