



Anthony Yee, left, and Raymond Tang.

Sharing the chair, co-leading loyal committee

The Northcote Town Centre BID programme continues to prosper with professional management and strong governance combining to rebuild once shaky foundations.

Anthony Yee and Raymond Tang, pictured, are – alongside a loyal group of committee members – two of the reasons for the BID’s renaissance, serving as co-chairs since the BID programme was returned to the business association in 2017, following an interim period of council management.

The nine-member board they jointly chair features members of Chinese, Indian and European descent plus representatives from Panuku (Connie Clarkson) and Kaipātiki Local Board (Anne-Elise Smithson).

Hong Kong-born restaurateur Raymond Tang came to New Zealand in 1989 and has served on the Northcote board for more than two decades.

“Governance is not an easy job and it’s good to have someone to share the chairing responsibility. We’re all full-time business people with little time to spare.”

New Zealand born pharmacist, Anthony Yee is a third generation Chinese Kiwi who has been on the Northcote board for a decade and, like, Raymond is serving his second term as co-chair.

“Our role is setting the vision, the goals and signing off on the strategic plan. We then monitor what’s been achieved and change our priorities if need be,” he said.

The pair agree that their experienced BID management contractor Gary Holmes and his multi-lingual associate Jennifer Lian (pictured, below right, with Anthony) make their job easier.

“Credit goes to the professional management – and council’s BID team – for turning around our fortunes. Without their support we would not have a programme today,” Anthony said modestly.

BID Governance Advisor Steve Branca credits the co-chairs for saving the day when they stepped up to lead the reconstituted board.

“Anthony and Raymond were the real saviours,” said Steve who, with colleague Claire Siddens and backed by the local board, helped Northcote to get back on track.





Raymond Tang is quick to share the credit: “We cannot claim all the glory for the survival of the BID, without the help of a group of loyal serving committee members who also devote their valuable time on the board.”

Kaipātiki Local Board co-chair [Danielle Grant said last year](#), the local board likes to keep its BIDs ‘near and dear to our heart’.

Raymond said the Northcote BID gets good support from the local board.

“Anne-Elise (Smithson, *pictured*) finds time in her busy schedule to attend our meetings and lends her voice to speaking up on our behalf,” he said.



Anne-Elise Smithson

Security and, specifically, crime prevention remains the BID’s top priority as evidenced by its significant investment in under veranda lighting recently. [SEE IMAGES](#)

Anthony Yee says the business association has a key partnership role in ensuring the ([Unlock Northcote](#)) redevelopment runs smoothly, “without cannibalising businesses”.

Sustained communications and engagement are essential, he said.

“We’re keen to continue our inclusive approach and keep our members in touch with the programme.”

“We’ll increase our multi-lingual communications with Mandarin and Korean information available as well as English to recognise the ethnic diversity of our business owners and customers,” Raymond added.

“Jennifer (Lian) is on the ground around the town centre – and she’s a local as well.”



Kaipātiki Local Board flies the flag at Northcote.

Without dwelling on its turbulent past, it is worth noting a few lessons learned from the BID’s breakdown – and recognising the red flags:

- The different roles of governance and management need to be clearly understood – and boundaries respected
- The role of a BID programme manager is a professional, responsible position and needs to retain the confidence of the board (executive committee)
- The BID Policy prescribes the approach to addressing issues, preferably before they escalate to become a serious concern (*Part 2: Operating Standards: 4.1*)
- Our BID programme team is here to help with advice and support.
- Email bids@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz