

KĀPITI

KĀPITI COAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

magazine Autumn 2024

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Cover Story:
NZ Native Oils



KAPITI COAST
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business Vitality

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**MĀ MUA KA KITE
A MURI, MĀ MURI
KA ORA A MUA.
THOSE WHO LEAD GIVE
SIGHT TO THOSE WHO
FOLLOW, THOSE WHO
FOLLOW GIVE LIFE TO
THOSE WHO LEAD.**

CHAIR'S WELCOME

KIA ORA
kāoua,

We're at a crossroads in our journey—but then that could be said for so many of us!

For over 21 years, the Kāpiti Chamber of Commerce has been a consistent voice for local business, propped up by our members and the support of our key partners—many of whom are small business owners themselves.

It's true, we're a product of a different time and era, with some Chambers still rooted in more traditional ways of doing business.



*But change
is here!*

Local businesses—large and small—are navigating the AI revolution and cyber resilience, embracing rapid innovation, and building their capability not for the future, but for right now! Social, environmental, and economic policy continues to shift, funding models push to adapt, and your value proposition, people, and culture all need to evolve to accommodate what is being recognised as the biggest shift in how we work since the Industrial Revolution.

We live and do business in a different moment! All across the world, Chambers of Commerce are becoming more diverse, inclusive, and accessible in response to more women in business, more diverse populations, the emerging culture of young people, and a growing sense of urgency to champion innovation, social good, resilience, and sustainability.



Left to right: Jess Deacon, Monique Leith, Claire Mance, Bede Larcy. Chamber Board Members and General Management.

What we stand for

The Chamber plays a critical role in the ecosystem.

A district without an independent voice for business is a place that lacks equity and diversity. As a not-for-profit organisation, at times we have lacked the capacity needed to move at the pace our community needed us to, with what has often been a voluntary, operational Board of Directors.

Passion and purpose can only carry us all so far! In a world where our supporters are now juggling multiple jobs, navigating housing affordability, adaptation, and climate change—working in a voluntary capacity, at pace, becomes a delicate balance to crack. But the Chamber plays a critical role in enabling businesses to adapt to the new world of work. And we must step into our new chapter of equity, innovation, and partnership—now!

We draw inspiration and support from our vast network. You only need to look at Queenstown Business (Chamber), Tauranga Business Chamber, and the Hutt City Chamber of Commerce to experience how effective an independent stance for business and collaboration can be—working intricately across the ecosystem with education providers, mana whenua, government funders, and private investors.

We stand for **advocacy** and ensuring local businesses have a voice at the table on the issues that impact them most!

We stand for **learning, capability development, and social connection.**

We stand for **accessing new and emerging funding opportunities**, ones that our Chamber network is well-placed to distribute and deliver.

We stand for **dissemination, transparency**, and making sure what you need to know reaches you.

We are the **'boots on the ground'**, engaging, networking, and asking the right questions to bridge the gap between central and local government and the realities of what entrepreneurs, small business owners, emerging businesses, and start-up organisations are experiencing.

This is the Kāpiti business story – independent, equitable, collaborative, and innovative.

For business, by business. Collectively, these are the levers we need to pull—together—for stronger local outcomes for all.

We thank you for your support!

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in 2024:

TO DRIVE AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR BUSINESS, ADVOCATE FOR EQUITABLE DECISION MAKING, AND BUILD THE STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS THAT ENABLE OUR DISTRICT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH—WE RELY ON THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBERS AND LOCAL KEY PARTNERS.

1. STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS & FUNDING
2. BUSINESS INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY
3. PEOPLE & CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT
4. ADVOCACY & STORYTELLING

[KAPITCHAMBER.ORG.NZ/JOIN](https://www.kapitchamber.org.nz/join)

Standard membership: \$20 per month.

Tucked away down a quiet driveway framed by native trees lies New Zealand Native Oils – an oasis in Otaihanga.

“Spirituality and meditation is so powerful...”



The evolution of the shop has been organic and expertly handled by Gary, whose previous career as a cabinet maker has been invaluable. Within the retail space itself, the products stocked include balms, oils, creams, salves, and tinctures created by Maria, and a number of natural and organic products including toothpaste and tea, and a specialty range of products designed to help arthritis sufferers.

“There really is something for everyone, and it’s things that people are already familiar with, it’s just that they’re used to buying the unnatural versions from the supermarket. I think this is a really common mind block, which can actually then convince you that something isn’t going to work. The mind is so powerful, and natural products are better for you!”

It’s a beautiful spot that celebrates its natural surroundings with timber cladding, lots of greenery, and the shop’s water feature embracing you with the peaceful sound of running water as you step through the door. And it’s all here because Maria Brocklebank followed her passion for understanding traditional plant medicine practices.

The products themselves are gorgeous, but the experience of shopping in this purpose-built haven is a sensory delight that represents Maria’s own holistic health journey.

As a young girl, Maria says she was always interested in making things and experimenting with blending natural ingredients, which she’d bottle up and give to family and friends. But a career in IT took flight first, so it wasn’t until Maria had become a mother, survived cancer, and relocated with her cabinet maker husband to start a native plant nursery in Kāpiti that she decided it was time to explore that intriguing pathway.

“Along the way I did take some skincare and aromatherapy classes, following the things that captured my attention. I felt drawn to it. When we opened the nursery, I ended up having to do a lot of research for the native plants, which opened up the fascinating world of traditional plant medicine with a New Zealand lens, and I was hooked.”

At the same time Maria and her husband Gary were learning about his ancestors, with his great-great-grandmother being one of the last full-blooded Māori. Through this research, they learned of the similarities between traditional plant medicine practices including rongoā. When it came time to formalise NZ Native Oils as a retail business, the couple sought permission to use the recognisable Māori symbol as part of their brand.

“It was a wonderful connection that we uncovered through Gary’s family, which was an uncanny spiritual connection to my own journey. I think if you can show what you’re doing is true and done with respect, and that I can be authentic about the way I am sharing it, it comes down to ... I am a proud person of this land, and I utilise its incredible natural benefits for others to enjoy and find relief.”

Incredibly, the growth of NZ Native Oils has become stronger since the COVID pandemic, which saw the rise of the ‘self love’ movement and opened the doors to people questioning where their personal care products came from and, importantly, what was in them.

Maria’s daughters are now 23 (twins) and 15 and they all help out in the shop, from making products to packing orders. Maria explains that this has been a blessing in disguise, as her two older girls have both been going through some mental health challenges, and her younger girl has mild autism. Having a calm, safe space that practises holistic wellbeing through sensory surroundings, aromatherapy, and tactile tasks she says has all been very helpful to their unique journeys through life.

“It took me until 50 to find a job that I actually enjoy doing because I finally listened to my intuition and what I have always known. The environment that I am in, and that I am surrounded by, is part of the holistic practice of wellbeing. I created this space for myself and I filled it with things that I love. It just so happens that some of the things I create can help other people too.”

NZ Native Oils products are available at the on-site shop at 140 Otaihanga Road, and at Welly Collective stores in North City Porirua, Queensgate, Johnsonville Mall, Courtenay Place, and Featherston Street. Maria will also be showcasing her range at the Wellington Women’s Lifestyle Expo at TSB Arena, 13-14 April.



“Spirituality and meditation is so powerful for healing and feeling good. I have always intuitively felt that. So when I found myself in the depths of depression after going through cancer treatment in my early 40s, I knew it was the mental that needed the most fixing, not the physical.”



nznativeoils.co.nz

Photography by: Joanna Piatek, Captured by Friday Photography

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MERLIN LABS



The flight path to bright futures

Imagine a place where science, technology, and engineering could be shared with the next generation from all walks of life in an accessible and motivational way. Where interest and intrigue were championed by local government, and connections with local kura were a given. And where long-term, sustainable careers were a very real possibility for anyone who had the appetite.

Cultural

Social

Environmental

Economic

Now imagine that this place was part of our own backyard in Kāpiti, and that the possibility of all of these opportunities was very much within our reach. We spoke to Shaun Johnson, CEO of Merlin Labs—an aviation technology company that began its life in Kāpiti—who let us know just how much of a possibility this scenario is for our community.



I grew up in Kerikeri, where high-flying career opportunities aren't readily available. I didn't have any grand plans, so I joined the Air Force—says Sean Johnson, CEO, Merlin Labs.

The attraction was the technology. This was in the late 80s, where a bit of a technology boom was happening. I had always been into electronics so as a young fella, being an avionics technician sounded appealing.

The great thing about joining the New Zealand Defence Force is that there are clear, achievable career paths there waiting for anyone who wants to climb the ladder. I spent four years doing my training and did well enough to be asked whether I wanted to become an engineering officer, which meant more study and a stint at a Melbourne university. That was where I realised my passion was more about leadership and designing systems integration, rather than fixing things.

From there I spent more than 25 years climbing the ranks in the Air Force, never spending more than two and a half years in one place. I led the NH90 helicopter procurement project, I worked with Skyhawks and Iroquois, was deployed to East Timor and the Solomons, and eventually came back and became the head of software compliance for the New Zealand Defence Force, meaning I was responsible for the certification of all the safety-critical aeronautical software.

I later went to the Civil Aviation Authority for six years and saw a lot of change. I had the pleasure of introducing a new technology team that was focused on helping advanced technology and new types of aircraft get off the ground—so to speak!

Then one day, while I was walking across the airfield at the Kāpiti Aero Club, I got a call from Matt George at Merlin Labs. Six interviews later, I decided to take a leap of faith: in the middle of a pandemic, I joined a startup.

I was living in Kāpiti at the time, so Merlin Labs NZ - the exciting, international, aviation technology company propelling the future of fully autonomous flight—had its humble beginnings on the coast north of Wellington. But eventually, I felt the pull to my hometown. I think it was the appeal of giving something back to the next generation.

I ended up having a conversation with the Chief Executive of the Far North District Council, and he explained how unemployment is a real problem, getting kids into high-value jobs is a problem... kids having dreams is a problem.

I wanted to do something to help change something there, and amazingly, after giving my two cents, Far North Holdings said they would build us a hangar. The council had asked "why Kerikeri?", and the answer was two-fold. First, the terrain and the airspace, which is similar to Kāpiti, is ideal for the projects we were dreaming about. Second, there ended up being three of us from Kerikeri who incidentally all joined the Air Force and by chance had come back together. That combined interest in doing something in the place where we were from is a big part of why we've seen such success.

Having local support, including having the council on board and being enthusiastic about our vision, was instrumental to what we've been able to achieve.

They built us a brand new, purpose-built flight test facility, which we lease back off them, and we were able to put down roots. And a few months ago we had a big opening ceremony in Kerikeri, which was wonderful to be part of.

A day before the opening ceremony, we had a visit from a full immersion kura from the Far North come to visit. What I wanted to convey to them is that aviation is not just flying planes. There will still need to be engineers, baggage handlers, and support people long after pilots are needed. We got the kids through the hangar and into the planes, and I got this one kid to start the plane, which blew his mind. We then had some kai and one of the kids said he was keen on getting a job in aviation. Job done. I want to be doing more of that up there (and in Kāpiti) because when I see how quickly ideas can seed in these kids' heads, I want to make sure all kids have the same opportunities.

A story like this demonstrates what happens when we work together as a community. I started as a tech on the shop floor fixing Iroquois, and I ended up the Head of Certification for the Defence Force for all the aviation products. Representing New Zealand overseas was such a thrill. It's proof that you can come from humble beginnings.

We are very consciously and genuinely connected with local runanga. It's a family approach. If we want to be part of Northland, we have to be part of Northland. It's been great because it's a way to connect to youth that's much more than rocking up to the school hall and speaking about something. It's tangible. You don't need aeroplanes to get people excited about avionics. This exact journey is happening right now in the north.

Another young guy wrote a really brave letter explaining why he wanted to come and get some exposure, and asked me for a job. I said absolutely. He's got the nous to reach out and the appetite to put in the hard yards. He works for us three nights after school learning everything from fixing aircraft to loading freight planes to certification. Next he will be helping to build a simulator.

If you fast forward to electrification, the world becomes greener through lots of little hops between little hubs. The domestic market can make the most of that, and Kāpiti is so amazingly placed. It's close to the international airport, great distance for short hop freight and people. But the big one is that the regulator is right over the hill. So getting them to be part of the certification process is a dream. We've actually struggled in Kerikeri to get the regulator up our way!

I get that there are concerns about housing on the Coast, but there's lots of land to do that on. Once you lose an airfield you'll never get it back. Two years ago when I first got engaged with the Kāpiti Air Urban team, I reached out to Solarworks, who supply solar panels, and they did some quick maths on placing some panels on the airfield—the spots that aren't any good for buildings because of the proximity to aircraft, but isn't used by aircraft—it's the buffer zone. The energy you could generate for the area is incredible. It's not just an airfield. It's an opportunity.

In Kāpiti, there's so much generosity that the community is possibly not aware of. Youth trips, young eagles—anyone can come. The planes are offered up for free for their use for these moments. People are passionate about getting young people of all backgrounds into this industry. There is so much opportunity to create a truly awesome hub that the whole community, and New Zealand, could be proud of.



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In an ever-competitive

world,

it comes down to the strength of the relationships you build and the dedication and time you give to your customers, peers, and community.

In a place like Kāpiti, many of your customers and connections become friends, and you undeniably get invested in the ongoing success of their business.

“I’m lucky enough to call my work colleagues friends, so it makes our office environment a fun-filled place to work in when things get hectic – which is pivotal in this industry.”—says Jo.

Jo Stewart—a local through and through—recently returned home to the Coast after 15 years of growth and expansion with Bayleys Commercial Real Estate in the Bay of Plenty. Jo’s seen the Bay transform into a buzzing business hotspot, a pathway that rings true for the Kāpiti Coast in her mind too!

Photography by: Joanna Piatek, Captured by Friday Photography

One of five core members of Women in Business (WIB), a sub-committee of volunteers that sits under the umbrella of the Kāpiti Coast Chamber of Commerce, Jo is driven by uplifting others, connecting people, and lending her drive to help support community engagement and women in business overall.

“Being involved in the Women in Business Committee has been a fantastic way to meet and connect with new people.”

The past years haven’t been easy by any stretch! After countless years, businesses have closed their doors, with others finally feeling secure enough to leap into new opportunities, a physical street presence, and ongoing development.

With her work hat on, Jo serves customers and secures premises from Paekākāriki to Levin. Jo’s care for the job at hand is ever-present as she navigates that intricate balance between sellers and buyers, landlords and tenants, investors and developers.

With a more personable personality, life and work blend together for Jo, and many of her peers and committee members know the more candid and warm side of her approach. So when life took an unexpected turn at Christmas 2023—when she experienced a heart failure in the workplace—it was her colleagues who took life-saving action!

“An ambulance called—with stretcher out—and a rush to Wellington hospital made for an eventful morning in our normally quieter Raumati Village! I’m back to full capacity now—but with a different appreciation for trying to achieve a better work-life balance.”

Jo’s return to the Kāpiti Coast signals her commitment and ongoing contribution to our district’s growth, alongside the countless hours she donates to the WIB committee and the success of the International Women’s Day Lunch, held each year in March.

“Often what we think are our weaknesses, are actually our strengths—I have been accused of being a people pleaser and doing too much ... but if you’re not a people pleaser then you’re not pleasing people... so maybe there is a lesson in that!”

It’s been a big few years for everyone, and Jo’s own story and life events are no different. For Jo, it’s connecting people and property, and creating growth in the community, and social connections alongside our peers.

“It’s by no means a 9-5pm gig!”



Update ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY



Neil Mackay

Update from the Economic Development Kotahitanga Board

Thank you to those of you who have recently taken time to share your views on our Economic Development – Direction of Travel document. This is an important step as we refresh the current economic development approach, and to ensure we are well prepared to take advantage of current and future opportunities.

The document outlines three key areas of focus in order to support a thriving, resilient local economy, including productive and innovative clusters.

In a nutshell, this involves working strategically with group businesses and joining resources together to foster a culture of collaboration and innovation, resulting in increased efficiencies, resource sharing, and economic and social benefits. The document also outlines a new operating model for the board in order to help attract new investment into our economy. We will be discussing this further with you in the coming months.



A word from our Mayor Janet Holborow

There has been a hive of activity across the district as we continue to implement our Economic Development strategy with the Economic Development Kotahitanga Board. One recent initiative that I am particularly thrilled about is our recent success in securing funding from the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs, a nationwide partnership between Local Government NZ and the Ministry of Social Development. This scheme supports youth aged 16-25 years with employability skills and is championed by Mayors throughout the country.

Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs

We are the first District Council in the Greater Wellington region to receive this funding and work is already well underway with Kāpiti young people, who are currently going through driver licence programmes, learning employability skills and, most importantly, gaining employment in our wonderful local businesses.

Implementation of Food and Beverage Gameplan gains momentum

Implementation of the Food and Beverage Gameplan continues with the recent combined Food and Beverage and Tourism Block Party Event held in March.

This included the opening of the new premises for The Bond Store, which is also providing support to the broader industry through the provision of a logistics hub which has been supported by Council.



The Food Innovation Network NZ and WellingtonNZ outlined support available to local F&B cluster members in March 2024, and attracted people from Horowhenua also.



The Sheffield Street and Birmingham Street Block Party showcased local producers attracting large crowds of visitors to the precinct. It was a great example of a cluster of businesses working together to showcase themselves and the Kāpiti Coast.



The aspirations of the Food and Beverage Gameplan are continuing with work underway to explore the feasibility of a locally shared production hub.

Watch this space!

Economic Insights

The Infometrics Quarterly Report for December 2023 showed that economic activity in the Kāpiti Coast edged down 0.8% over the year, with the construction and retail sectors both contributing to the slight contraction in activity. However, employment of Kāpiti Coast residents rose 2.1% in the same period, which is a reasonably strong result compared with the 1.5% growth across the Wellington region. International visitors are returning with international guest nights rising by over 12,000 (133%) for the same period, which helped to contribute to an 8% increase in total guest nights in the district. Residential consents were also bucking the regional and national trend, up 53% in our district, compared with a 37% fall across Wellington Region and a 25% fall nationally. At \$31.7m over the year to December 2023, the value of non-residential consent on the Kāpiti Coast is 44% higher than their 10-year average.

Your Economic Development Team



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TECH ON THE Kāpiti Coast

Alongside several other sectors, the Tech sector has been identified as a leading high-growth sector and contributor to the economic development of the Kāpiti Coast.

We kicked off with a workshop in October 2023 where there were 22 Tech businesses in attendance, facilitated by Creative HQ, and also attended by the Kāpiti Chamber of Commerce.

In February 2024, Tech Step occurred, a nationwide initiative funded by MBIE to engage our local rangatahi in the future pathways of technology. This event was delivered locally by the Kāpiti Coast Chamber of Commerce and was a great example of working collaboratively with the Council, local tech businesses, schools and kura to help ensure this event had as much impact for our young people as possible. The event was held at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti in Raumati.

The Chamber and other business groups from across the District are also involved in the Startup and Emerging Business cluster discussions.

Keep an eye out for more Tech events during the national event, Tech Week which is held 20 - 26 May 2024.



KĀPITI COAST BUSINESS

Kāpiti Coast DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua



Kāpiti's guide to local music



Having a great time in Kāpiti!
Such a beautiful place with a really creative feel. Hears of live music every week at different venues. Found a great website that has the info - you can sign up & receive a weekly gig guide! via email - super helpful.
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OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS BEING GOOD

Treaty Partners

As I write this story, I sit in that somewhat uncomfortable space of owning and understanding my place of privilege, the unconscious biases that live within us all, and the constant power dynamics that present themselves to us as a society, every day.



Monique Leith, Co-Founding Director & Principal Planner, Leith Consulting.

It can be a heavy mindset some days. But these reflections likewise bring opportunities for incredible growth, transformation, and helping create a sense of belonging for all.

I am the co-founder of Leith Consulting, a land surveying and environmental planning consultancy that Josh—my husband—and I envisioned and developed in the summer of 2018-19. Alongside our incredible team, we exist to help build thriving communities, propped up by deeply trusted, long-lasting relationships and contributing wherever possible to a better future for our tamariki (children) and the generations to come.

I was born here in Kāpiti at the (then) Paraparaumu Maternity Hospital. I grew up in Waikanae and now live in Paraparaumu. Our Leith Consulting team typically work from our studio in Ōtaki amongst the sounds and energy of the whenua (land).

My days are full of conversation and connection, which I navigate as a proud member of Aotearoa’s deaf community. My other senses do a lot of the interpreting and listening for me. I have always had a deep connection to the environments surrounding me, the warmth and expression of culture, embracing tikanga, and engaging with the stories of those who have walked before me. Because of my heightened sense of awareness—of both people and the places around me—I rely a lot on my ability to read, watch with intent, and research—while I embrace my pākehā identity.

Through years of deep engagement in the resource management and town planning realm, I’ve come to watch, interrupt and work to understand the behaviours of others, and the imbalance of power as it plays out in our daily engagements across our communities. The need for systemic change is more pressing than ever!

Having a hunger for change is about a readiness to address past injustices and work towards a more equitable future. Under the leadership and direction of my husband and I, Leith Consulting is a firm that is committed to uplifting the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Treaty of Waitangi.

Being a good treaty partner is not just a concept and cannot be; it’s embedded in our thought processes which transpire in our everyday work. We prioritise respectful engagement, seek guidance from mana whenua, align our projects with indigenous advice, connect our clients with community or iwi-led kaupapa (causes), and measure our success not on regulatory approval but in authentic engagement and collaboration with tangata whenua.

Our approach isn’t always the easy road. It requires confronting biases, dismantling privilege, and having to withstand a system designed to uphold colonial structures. But the more we travel these roads, the more we realise

they are abundant with lessons, strengths, and growth. We are richer as people for not taking the easy option. It moves our business away from simply being transactional and into relational, putting environmental and social outcomes into the heart of what we do.

While some days might feel a bit top-heavy in our purpose to support more equitable outcomes, our contribution to uplifting the awareness of indigenous rights and environmental stewardship continues to grow. We see our younger generations leading the way with their understanding of te reo Māori, Te Tiriti, and the principles of collaboration. It’s a progression we are proud to play our part in, guided by our values of collaboration, transparency, commitment, and empowerment.

It is a journey.

One full of humility, respect, and continuous learning.

And as I come full circle, it’s a journey full of opportunity, incredible growth, and true transformation—as we play our part in creating thriving communities where there is a strong sense of belonging for all.

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The NZME Kāpiti team is here to help too. Ali Drury and her team of

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Working alongside their clients, the NZME Kāpiti team is determined to deliver high quality, cost-effective, successful campaigns on both a local and national scale.

And don't forget their newsroom team led by editor David Haxton,

who has ensured Kāpiti News has been consistently at the heart of local life for more than 20 years. Reaching 39,000* readers each week, Kāpiti News reports on local stories that matter.

NZME Kāpiti also produces a glossy, six-monthly business and lifestyle magazine, Celebrating Kāpiti, which is distributed locally and nationally. Just another way they can help you promote your business to a wider audience.

To find out more about how your business can partner with NZME Kāpiti, give them a call for a free, no obligation chat and coffee, or they can pop in to see you – getting out and about around this beautiful region is what they love the most!

Get in touch at kapiti@nzme.co.nz

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Source: Nielsen CMI Q4 22 – Q4 23 November 23 Fused AP15+. Monthly coverage for Daily & Community titles, Weekly coverage for Newspaper Inserted Magazines, Monthly UA for Digital, Weekly Reach for Radio (GfK RAM S4 22). Note: Fused data has potential for duplication.
*Nielsen CMI Q1 22 – Q3 23 AP15+

PRECISE PRINT

A family affair,
through
and through



In the thick of Kāpiti, just off Kāpiti Road, navigate toward Manchester Street and you'll find Precise Print.

Precise is one word for it. Experienced, service-minded, and driven by people and relationships are a few more words for what's going down on Manchester.

For over three decades, 35 years in 2024 to be exact, Sean and Jo Donnelly have navigated every kind of design and print production job there is!

A humble kind of duo, Sean and Jo rarely boast about their own journey, and even when asked about the strengths



and lessons of it all, the narrative of family, their love for motorcycles and motocross, and the sentiment that business is all about the people you meet along the way – is what you're met with. **You get an immediate sense of the heart behind this local business, through and through.**

As a full-service print and design production enterprise, the expansion of their son's own business, Graphic Garage, means you can head down Manchester Street to launch your business, brand your fleet of vehicles, or pump out critical documents without leaving the compound. Graphic Garage is their son's stand-alone business, a stone's throw away, carving out its name in the design and print production sector in its own right.

Precise Print has transitioned over the years, cutting its teeth in the more traditional art of offset printing, now pushing the boundaries of the ever-evolving digital print industry. As time and services have evolved, the business remains grounded in that sense of family, with long-serving employees who become just as much of the fabric – some for almost three decades themselves.

As the day draws to a close, a shared nod signals that it's time to switch the gears, switch off the machines, and hit the road for a ride. It's a way of life it seems, and a pretty good one by the looks. Fuelling craftsmanship and results, just as much as they fuel the next open-road jaunt.

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027 546 9786

PRECISEPRINT

KĀPITI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

6

Peter Jackson Plumbing



Peter and Sonya Jackson

For all your plumbing, gasfitting, and drainlaying needs on the Kapiti Coast, count on Peter Jackson Plumbing. With 27 years of proud service to our community, we specialise in maintenance, renovations, and upgrades, ensuring precision and care in every project.

At Peter Jackson Plumbing, our team members are all proud members of the local community. Working closely with local suppliers and employing skilled tradespeople from the area, we believe in the importance of supporting our community.

As Master Plumbers, we uphold the highest standards of professionalism and quality. Each team member holds the necessary licenses, guaranteeing top-quality service every time. Whether it's fixing an emergency water leak, installing a new gas appliance, or clearing a blocked drain, our experienced team is equipped to handle any task, day, or night. Yes, we're on call 24/7 for all plumbing emergencies.

What truly distinguishes Peter Jackson Plumbing is our unwavering commitment to customer service. Supporting our team of eight skilled plumbers are three dedicated office staff members, available to assist with any inquiries or scheduling needs. From your initial contact, you'll experience our dedication to excellence firsthand. We believe in exceeding expectations to ensure our customers are satisfied with every aspect of our service.

Our dedication to customer satisfaction extends beyond job completion. We strive to build lasting relationships based on trust, reliability, and communication. Whether you have questions about your plumbing system or need advice on a home improvement project, our friendly and knowledgeable team is here to assist every step of the way.

Next time you need plumbing, gasfitting, or drainlaying services on the Kapiti Coast, trust the experts at Peter Jackson Plumbing. With our unwavering commitment to quality, dedication to supporting the local community, and exceptional customer service, your home is in good hands.



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I don't tend to separate my life from my work. It's all wrapped up in my purpose and TALK's place in the world.

I created a small business called TALK. We exist to help people and organisations share their stories and services with the world.

We place human-centred design thinking at the heart of our engagement approach. What does that mean? It means we consider the humans you wish to impact—first and foremost—at the centre of our communication, recommendations, and ideas.

We do this for any entity or small business working to support better outcomes for people, for the planet, and for the places we call home. In short, we work with individuals and organisations looking to enhance livelihoods, rather than deplete them.

Sharing your story can mean many things, be it verbally, visually, or through physical (and digital) events and experiences.

The power of getting clear about your story and boldly communicating it with the world is where a deep sense of connection (with your audience and customers) begins!

In a time when marketing, communications, design, and digital experiences get packaged up collectively by most contractors and suppliers, it's hard to know which is the right fit. Often, it's that initial engagement and whether you 'click' and connect. But to get the right result, there's a method to the madness that brand and communication partners must get right in order to connect with new market segments or retain ongoing engagement with existing audiences.

Starting any brand or story from a place of authenticity and intent is fundamental. What is your vision, what are your values, who do you want to serve, and how will you add something meaningful to their life? Everything else should anchor from there.

A brand is not just a logo. It's your promise to the world and all those that engage with you. It's how you apply your thinking and methodology every time you make, shape, craft, or produce something. It's the experience you provide for your customers, the way your employees conduct themselves when the going gets tough, and it's the engagement ethos you apply when you step outside your front door.

Tech Step Kāpiti

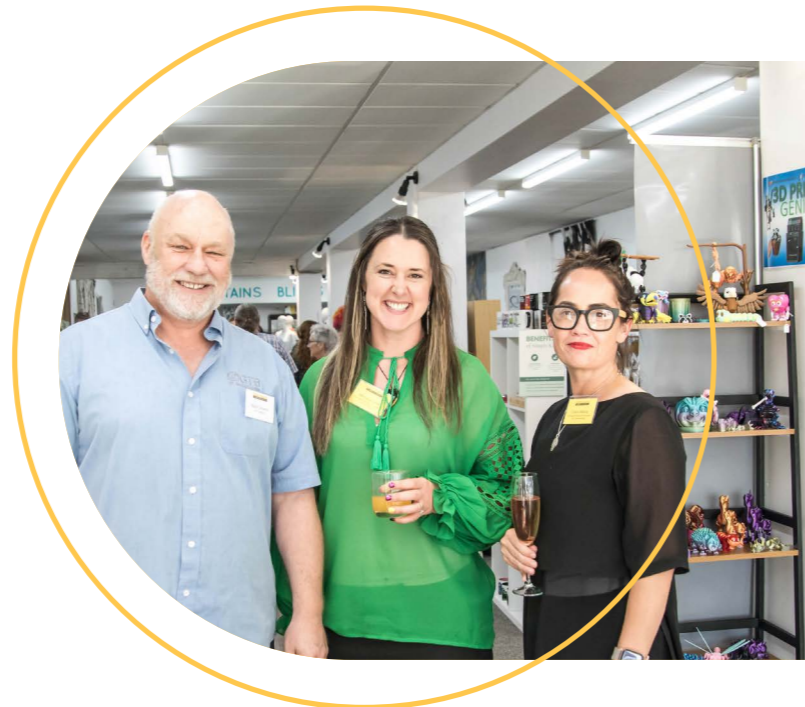
Photo: Pera Barrett shares his insights on bringing a purpose-led mindset to your mahi (work).

Tech Step Kāpiti brought local young people together with local leadership and innovators to understand more about future pathways in technology and innovation. This event was held at Te Raukura ki Kāpiti, in Raumati, through funding the National Chamber network acquired through the Ministry of Business and Innovation's Tech Step initiative.



CHAMBER events

A core part of our purpose is to create social learning environments and networking spaces that enable entrepreneurs and business owners to connect, learn through one another's experiences, and provide a platform for inspirational speakers and community advocates.



International Women's Day

Photo: The International Women's Day Luncheon at Paraparaumu Memorial Hall

Delivered by our Women in Business subcommittee, this event brought together 200+ local women in business. We had overwhelmingly positive feedback about our exceptional keynote speaker, Rosie Overcomer (a previous member of the Gloriavale community), and the warmth and energy in the room.



Farewell Tuatara

Photo: Past Chamber Chair Heather Hutchings farewells the team at Tuatara, alongside Tim Costley, who addressed our local business community.

A bittersweet get-together for our last monthly networking event at Tuatara in March. The sun was out, the tunes were playing, and our new local MP Tim Costley provided us with the immediate key focus areas for our new co-coalition government.

Business After 5pm

Photo: Mark Tement of GTB IT Solutions, alongside Chamber's Chair, Monique Leith and General Manager, Claire Mance.

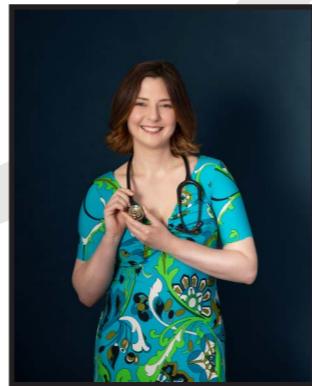
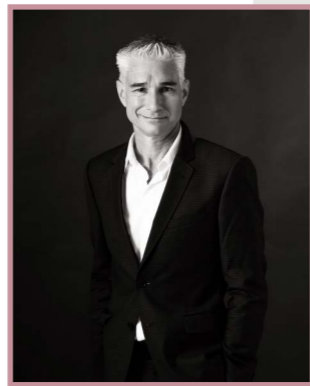
Our last Business After 5pm event was held at the Copperfield Collective in Paraparaumu Beach. The Copperfield Collective is far more than a retail hub! It's a retail community that connects small businesses making or distributing New Zealand-made goods. These events provide people with the opportunity to share their stories and purpose with our wider membership group and business community.



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What are your business goals for the year ahead?

The beginning of a new financial year is an excellent time to review the year just been and reflect on what worked, what didn't, what you'd like to change, and the new things you'd like to implement.

Our directors and extended team
are your partners in success.



Jason Grimstrup
C.A. BCom, DipGrad



Jackie Edser
CA, BBS, GradDipCA

Your Yearly Business Review

- What were the most significant impacts on your business in the last 12 months?
- How well did you meet the challenges?
- What worked well last year?
- What systems, technology, products or services were successful?
- What accomplishments can you celebrate?
- What situation, event, or experience provided the biggest learning opportunity?
- What is the biggest challenge or frustration you face as you prepare for the year ahead?
- What did you most enjoy during the year? Do more of it. What did you least enjoy? Do less of it!
- Analyse your financial reports. Are you earning what you'd like to? Is the business sustainably profitable?



**EVENT MANAGEMENT
AND DESIGN
WITH IMPACT!**

WHAMBAMEVENTS.CO.NZ



30-year Milestone for Local Business Awards!

Celebrating three decades of business excellence

In 1994, Ōtaki Racecourse was preparing for a ground-breaking event. It was the launch of the inaugural Electra Kāpiti Horowhenua Business & Innovation Awards. The awards were the brainchild of former Te Horo mover and shaker, Barry Lucinsky, but few would guess that 30 years later, the awards would be going stronger than ever, with a long list of impressive winners.

"It's been a remarkable journey marked by the fact that almost every Business of the Year winner over the past 30 years is still trading," says Brendan Duffy, current chair of the Business Kāpiti Horowhenua Board. Household names such as Genoese and Goodman Contractors Ltd are inscribed on the coveted Business of the Year plaque.

Perhaps even more remarkable is that these awards are the longest running in New Zealand. Even Covid did not slow down the celebration of business success and innovation in the region as the awards event moved fully online with Te Radar as the emcee.

One of the earliest board members, Tony Rush, who later introduced the Hall of Fame, believes the success of the awards is due to *"good people in governance doing a good job in providing a really prestigious set of awards, where even businesses that don't win benefit from the process of entering."*

Both Horowhenua and Kāpiti are strongly represented each year with the Gala Awards dinner alternating between the two districts. Rush says each district has two distinct sets of complementary businesses, with Horowhenua providing rural industry and light manufacturing, while Kāpiti businesses revolve more around service industries.

This year the Gala Awards celebration will be held in Levin. A big cake with 30 candles and a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday will be just some of the evening's festivities!

bkh.org.nz



ALL OVER THE KAPITI COAST

Residential / Commercial



YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS



Residential Recently Sold



383A Te Moana Road, Waikanae



302 Rosetta Road, Raumati Beach



19 Olive Terrace, Paraparaumu Beach



59 School Road, Te Horo

Commercial Recently Sold



Unit 8, 9 Te Roto Drive, Paraparaumu



216 Main Highway, Otaki



56-62 Main Road, Waikanae



14-16 Riverbank Road, Otaki

Residential For Sale



15 Karekare Road, Raumati South



19 Sea Poppy Way, Otaihangā



31 Andrew Street, Waikanae



102 Kuku East Road, Manakau

Commercial Recently Leased



21a Birmingham Street, Paraparaumu



18 Seaview Road, Paraparaumu Beach



110 Rimu Road, Paraparaumu



183 Main Highway, Otaki

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