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## PO Box Lobby Reprieve?

Kia ora tatou,

Having highlighted in the last newsletter NZ Post's decision to close the PO Box Lobby at The Stationary Store, 65 Paul Matthews Road, where many local businesses, including BNH, have their PO Box, there may be a medium-term reprieve. Having brought this to peoples' attention and received support from some members, The Stationary Store owner, Tania, tells us that the Post Box Lobby has received a 'stay of execution' for two years, at least giving her some breathing space. Thank you to everyone who read the article and offered their support which helped to bring about this positive result which might not be the perfect ending, but it's a step in the right direction.

In other news, although the Reserve Bank Of New Zealand (RBNZ) recently kept the Official Cash Rate (OCR) at 2.25 per cent, there are still concerns about our higher than expected rate of inflation which could trigger an increase in the OCR sooner than expected. If this is the case and the OCR is increased towards the end of the year as many are predicting, then no doubt interest rates will follow suit, reducing peoples' discretionary spending again as they navigate the seemingly endless cost of living challenges. Hopefully, any increases will be a while coming, small and short-lived giving members their best chance of maintaining ongoing financial sustainability.

Ngā mihi mahana,

**KEVIN O'LEARY**  
General Manager

## Upcoming Workshops &amp; Events

## Business After 5 With General Architectural Design

## BUSINESS AFTER 5 NETWORKING



THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2026, 5.00 – 7.30PM

GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN,  
42 TAWA DRIVE , ALBANY



Explore the creativity, innovation, and passion behind their residential, commercial, and bespoke design work. This relaxed and welcoming event is all about building meaningful relationships, sparking great conversations, and exploring new opportunities with fellow Business North Harbour members. Enjoy a great evening with complimentary drinks and nibbles, connect with familiar and new faces, and be in to win some awesome spot prizes!

Start 2026 strong, we can't wait to see you there.

[Register Here](#)

## Mental Health In The Workplace With St John



**Hato Hone  
St John**

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID WORKSHOP**  
WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026, 8.45AM – 12.45PM  
BUSINESS NORTH HARBOUR, 322 ROSEDALE ROAD

St John has designed a two-hour workshop to up-skill staff. Attendees will be shown how to deal with the five most common situations they are likely to encounter in their workplace environment which could be a cardiac arrest, a falling injury, or a person cut and badly bleeding. The aim of this workshop is to up-skill staff to compliment, or assist, your fully trained first aiders.

[Register Here](#)

## Women In Business With Wendy Petrie

**WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

**WENDY PETRIE**

*Have the courage to back yourself  
and embrace change*



**Friday 20 March 2026**

North Harbour Hockey, 159 Bush Road, Rosedale  
10.00am – 12.30pm



Join us for an inspiring morning with fellow BID Member **Wendy Petrie** as she shares her powerful message about yourself when life takes an unexpected turn. After decades in the media spotlight, Wendy reinvented her career and stepped boldly into the world of business — becoming coowner of *Speedy Signs Albany* and building a thriving communications consultancy, *The Workroom*.

In her candid and energising keynote, Wendy opens up about taking risks, trusting your instincts, and navigating the steep learning curve of entrepreneurship. From leading through uncertainty to building confidence in new industries, she offers practical insight and realworld lessons on resilience, reinvention, and the courage it takes to succeed in business today.

[Register Here](#)

## Learning Lab: AI For Business



LEARNING LAB

# UNDERSTANDING AI

*A Practical Guide for your Business*

**Wednesday 25 March 2026**

Business North Harbour | 11:30am – 2pm

Brought to you by

**voyager**



Following the success of last year's BNH AI for Business Conference, we've partnered with IT360 and Voyager to bring you a powerful new session designed to unlock the real-world potential of Artificial Intelligence for New Zealand businesses. This hands-on, practical workshop cuts through the noise and shows you exactly how AI tools can streamline operations, boost productivity, and transform the way you work.

[Register Here](#)

## Celebrate Food With BNH This March



**SHARE & WIN!** Check online for a map of participating BID eateries and how you can go in the draw to win a \$100 Prezzy Card

[Learn More](#)

## Inorganic Collection Event Dates Confirmed



Business North Harbour in partnership with the Abilities Group will be collecting inorganic items from member businesses who register for a collection [HERE](#) on:

- Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup> 2026

This will be the first collection of two for the calendar year.

[Register My Collection](#)

## Past Events



Thank you to Ingham North Harbour for hosting us in their bright, modern showroom — the perfect backdrop for great conversation, beautiful weather, and plenty of connection. From reconnecting with familiar faces to chatting about business wins and growing optimism in the local economy, the energy in the room was truly uplifting.

A big thank you as well to the Kaipātiki Local Board for cosponsoring and joining us on the night. It was wonderful to see our business community come together — relaxed, engaged, and enjoying a memorable evening. We can't wait to see you all at the next After 5!

[Image Gallery](#)

## Last Chance To Register For: BNH - Massey University Leadership And Business Mentoring Programme



Following the successful completion of the fifth year of the programme, Business North Harbour in partnership with Massey University will once again be offering members the opportunity to participate in a unique leadership and business skills development opportunity in 2026.

The Mentoring Programme, which has proven to be of great value to both mentors and mentees, will run from mid-March to mid-December and we're looking to expand the opportunity to include up to 15 pairs of mentors and mentees this year, but we need your engagement.

We have numerous highly skilled and successful businesspeople within our local business community, so please consider giving back by becoming a programme mentor. We also have numerous potential mentees whose personal and professional development would benefit from being paired up with an amazing mentor, so don't be shy, come and join the programme as a mentee.

Full details of the programme are available on a dedicated page on the BNH website [here](#) and include details of how to apply to participate as a mentor or a mentee.

If you want to find out more about what's involved as a mentor or a mentee please e-mail:

[kevin@businessnh.org.nz](mailto:kevin@businessnh.org.nz)

## What's Happening On Business.govt.nz

### Be prepared for unexpected events



Extreme weather events can happen throughout New Zealand at any time. Being prepared for current and future events helps everyone stay safe.

Find out what to do during and after an emergency, and how to look after yourself and your employees. [BE PREPARED](#)

### February Updates from Business.Govt.NZ

The latest update highlights guidance on starting a company, along with AI tools that help create clearer, more engaging presentations. Businesses are encouraged to use the healthy business checklist and explore government grants to strengthen resilience and support growth. Additionally, new invoicing rules now require government agencies to pay businesses within five days, and support is available for those beginning their R&D journey.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

### Stay in the Know



[Business.govt.nz](#) and other New Zealand Government channels are continually sharing the latest updates, tools, and guidance to help businesses stay informed and prepared.

If you've got questions or need a hand, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is here to support you.

Small Business Freephone: 0800 424 946

[GO TO BUSINESS.GOV.T.NZ](#)

## Latest Useful Information From Auckland Emergency Management

### Landslide Awareness

This gives an overview to help people understand about landslides and how to spot the warning signs before they happen. There's information on the regional study of landslide susceptibility and how that data is being used for planning. There are practical tips on reducing our landslide risk.

[Click Here](#)

Radio NZ recently ran a helpful piece on Auckland Council's flood risk information being used on Trade Me and One Roof (and is available to other platforms). The interview is a twelve minute listen: [Click Here](#)

## Join Harbour Sport's FREE Family Fun Day



Play is a universal language, a way we connect, learn, and express joy across all ages and backgrounds. No matter where we come from, play brings us together.

Join Harbour Sport at the Cultural Play Festival at Albany Community Hub to explore the rich diversity of cultures from across the North Shore. Experience traditional games, stories, music, dance, and hands-on activities led by local cultural groups.

Come curious. Leave connected. This is a day for families, friends, and whānau to celebrate what makes us different — and what brings us together.

Free entry – all ages welcome! Come along and celebrate diversity, unity, and fun!

[JOIN THE FUN](#)

## BUY LOCAL



Don't forget to join the Buy North Harbour Facebook group to promote your business products and services and support your North Harbour neighbours.

[Join Now](#)

Thank you to our 2025-2026 PLATINUM PARTNERS

**Ingham**<sup>®</sup>

**ember**  
KOROWAI TAKITINI

Thank you to our 2025-2026 GOLD PARTNERS

**BENEFITZ**  
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leasing and finance

**parkland**

**inspire**<sup>\*</sup>

**Spark**

Business Hub  
Auckland  
North

Thank you to our 2025-2026 SILVER PARTNERS

**ASSA ABLOY**

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TRADING

**VANGUARD**  
SECURITY

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