

In This Edition Of YOUR News

- [Geopolitical Uncertainty Reigns](#)
- [Upcoming Workshops & Events](#)
- [Past Events](#)
- [Welcome New Members](#)
- [International Women's Day](#)
- [Colliers Brings You 61 Constellation Drive](#)
- [Opportunities For Local Suppliers With Auckland Council](#)
- [What's Happening On Business.govt.nz](#)
- [UK To NZ Pension Transfers](#)
- [Auckland Council - Have Your Say](#)
- [The Rosedale Pollution Problem](#)
- [MSD Supports Workforce Changes](#)
- [BUY LOCAL](#)
- [Valued BNH Partners](#)

Geopolitical Uncertainty Reigns

Kia ora tatou,

The current geopolitical issues around the world have introduced another period of uncertainty for us all to navigate. Just when it appeared that our economic outlook was becoming brighter despite all the turmoil caused by conflicts in Ukraine and Palestine, along comes the assault on Iran by the USA and Israel, the consequences of which would appear initially to be far more significant as oil prices rise and stock markets lose considerable amounts of money.

Only time will tell what effects we will feel here in New Zealand in addition to the already increasing price of petrol, but there are some concerns that inflation could increase again which may in turn trigger a rise in the Official Cash Rate (OCR). If this is indeed the case, then interest rates will likely increase in response sooner than expected, once again putting pressure on household budgets and reducing disposable income, just as some businesses were becoming economically sustainable again.

I sincerely hope that this latest global conflict is short-lived, minimising its economic effects and allowing our predicted economic growth, which is only moderate, to come to fruition, which in turn will hopefully signal better times ahead for more BNH members.

Ngā mihi mahana,

KEVIN O'LEARY
General Manager

Upcoming Workshops & Events

Introducing: Networking & Nibbles

We're excited to share that our **Business After 5** events are evolving to better suit the needs of our busy members. We've heard from many of you that evenings can be tricky—between family commitments, long commutes, and packed calendars—so we're shifting our format to make it easier for you to connect.

Starting 1 April, **Business After 5 will become "Networking & Nibbles," held inside working hours**. Same great networking opportunities, same friendly atmosphere—just at a more convenient time.

Join us for light refreshments, genuine connections, and the chance to meet other local professionals without cutting into your evening.

Networking & Nibbles: Hyperbaric Health

NETWORKING & NIBBLES

Hyperbaric HEALTH
Your path to a faster recovery

Join us and you could win a FREE 60 minute session valued at \$175!

Wednesday 1 April 2026
17B Airborne Road, Rosedale. 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Business North Harbour

Join us for an energising **Networking & Nibbles** at Hyperbaric Health as we come together for another great networking event.

Step inside Hyperbaric Health and discover how cutting-edge oxygen therapy is helping people elevate their wellbeing, boost recovery, and optimise performance. Enjoy an evening of connection with fellow members, light refreshments, and an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the hyperbaric chambers and the science behind them.

[Register Now](#)

Women In Business With Wendy Petrie

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

WENDY PETRIE

Have the courage to back yourself and embrace change

Business North Harbour

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 backing 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 Now](#)

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** **IT360** **Business North Harbour**

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 Now](#)

Celebrate Food With BNH This March



Check out the map for the eateries participating in BNH Food Month 2026 and find out how you can **win yourself a \$100 Prezzy Card!**

[Show me the map](#)

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 on:

- **Wednesday May 6th**
- **Thursday May 7th 2026**

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

[Register My Collection](#)

The BNH Business Awards Are Back For 2026!



We are thrilled to announce the 3rd Business North Harbour Business Excellence Awards, taking place in November 2026. This year, we are pleased to welcome **Massey University** and Massey Business School as our headline sponsor — a perfect fit for our awards and our thriving business community. Get ready for an unforgettable celebration of ambition, success, and the incredible businesses that power our BID.

HKNZBA's 2026 Business Awards: Nominations Now Open



The Hong Kong New Zealand Business Association is proud to introduce their Business Awards Segment. An opportunity for you to **showcase your business** and its contributions to the New Zealand, Hong Kong and / or Greater Bay Area of China. The awards aim to recognise business excellence and innovation across diverse sectors, encourage continuous improvement, and foster collaboration and meaningful connections among business leaders.

[Find Out More](#)

How To Give Difficult Feedback With MyHR



In-person event

Giving difficult feedback.

With Sylvie Thrush Marsh, Chief MyHR Evangelist



Boardroom, Maxim Hotel, 11 Davies Drive, Albany, Auckland

Tues, 17 March | 4:30-6:30 pm

Giving clear, constructive feedback is one of the most important parts of being a boss – and it’s also one of the toughest. It’s easy to let concerns about “rocking the boat”, worrying about hurt feelings, and not knowing “how to do it” get in the way.

Join MyHR for an engaging and **practical happy hour session**, led by HR guru Sylvie Thrush Marsh, where they cover the basics and go over some useful strategies for giving uncomfortable feedback at work.

[Register Now](#)

Actionable Insights Event With Massey Business School And HRNZ



Massey Business School Actionable Insights Series Presents: Imposter Syndrome at Work: Career Transitions & NZ Workplaces

Imposter syndrome is often discussed as a personal confidence issue - but in reality, it is deeply shaped by workplace context, organisational culture, and career transitions. This session explores imposter experiences in the context of modern NZ workplaces, with a particular focus on professionals navigating career change, cultural transitions, and progression into new roles.

[Register Now](#)

Join The North Harbour Club For A Fun Night Of Pétanque

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2026
 STANLEY BAY PÉTANQUE CLUB, 20 STANLEY POINT ROAD,
 DEVONPORT • 5.30PM - 8.00PM

Roll up your sleeves for a fun, social Pétanque event open to everyone across the North Shore. Enter a team with colleagues, friends or mates and enjoy a relaxed evening that’s perfect for team building and friendly competition. Best of all, your participation directly **supports local youth** through the North Harbour Club & Charitable Trust, helping fund programmes that recognise and empower young people in our community.

[Register Now](#)

North Harbour Stadium Is Now Home To The Albany Night Market



Discover all your favourite street food, artisan stalls, and family-friendly entertainment **every Tuesday night at North Harbour Stadium**. Enjoy vibrant flavours, live music, and an unbeatable night-market atmosphere—right here on the North Shore!

[More Info](#)

Past Events

After 5 With General Architectural Design



Our second Business After 5 of 2026 continued the strong momentum we’ve already set for the year. This time, our Business North Harbour members gathered at **General Architectural Design (GEAR)** — a team well-known for their creativity, innovation, and commitment to design excellence across residential, commercial, and bespoke projects.

From the moment guests arrived, the GEAR team offered a warm welcome and an engaging look into their world of architectural design.

The event buzzed with conversation as members reconnected and met new faces. Business cards were exchanged, stories were shared, and plenty of meaningful interactions filled the room — exactly what makes our Business After 5 events so valuable.

We're excited to keep the energy going with more opportunities to meet, collaborate, and grow together throughout 2026.

Keep an eye out for details of our next networking event — we look forward to seeing you there!

Fire Safety Workshop



We had a great turnout for BNH's recent Fire Safety Session, delivered by the knowledgeable team from **Fire & Emergency Waitematā**. In just 45 minutes, attendees were taken through a fast-paced, practical workshop packed with insights they can apply immediately—at work and at home.

Participants learned the essentials of creating a compliant evacuation scheme, explored smart strategies to minimise fire risks in the workplace, and picked up valuable home safety tips—from effective smoke alarm placement to simple daily habits that can save lives. The session wrapped with a live Q&A, giving everyone the chance to have their questions answered directly by fire safety specialists.

A huge thank-you to the Fire & Emergency Waitematā team for sharing their expertise, and to all attendees for contributing to an energetic and engaging session.

If you'd like more support or resources to boost fire safety in your business or household, **we're here to help**—just get in touch!

[Read More](#)

Welcome To The BID!



BNH extends a warm welcome to our new Members:

- **KS Chicken** - who is also a participant of Food Month!
- **Shore Water**
- **GNS Electrical**

International Women's Day In Aotearoa



In Aotearoa New Zealand, International Women's Day, celebrated on the 8th of March, is both a celebration and a checkpoint. It is a moment to **recognise the extraordinary contribution women make** across business, government, iwi organisations, entrepreneurship and community leadership and to ask whether our workplaces are truly delivering on the promise of equity.

New Zealand has long positioned itself as a global leader in gender equality. We were the **first nation in the world to grant women the vote**, and today women continue to shape our economy in meaningful ways. But despite progress, Women remain underrepresented in executive leadership and governance roles, continue to experience pay gaps, and are more likely to shoulder unpaid caregiving responsibilities that affect career progression.

New Zealand's gender pay gap currently sits in the single digits nationally, but the figures widen significantly for wāhine Māori, Pacific women and women with disabilities. Representation at board level has improved in recent years, yet parity has not been achieved across all sectors, particularly in construction, technology and finance.

This year's official United Nations theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls", calls on organisations, governments and communities to dismantle structural barriers that hold women back. It's not just a celebration, it's a call for enforceable rights, equitable justice systems and real action to close persistent gaps in opportunity and protection worldwide.

Turning Policy into Practice in New Zealand Businesses

Many organisations here are stepping up with meaningful changes, transparent pay reviews, flexible working policies and structured leadership development programmes that support women's progression. But equity also requires accountability and culture change:

Practical steps that are gaining traction in New Zealand include:

- Transparent reporting on pay equity and leadership representation
- Actively developing female leadership pipelines
- Supporting women returning to work after caregiving breaks
- Embedding Te Tiriti-informed approaches that recognise the leadership of wāhine Māori
- Ensuring diversity targets are linked to executive accountability
- Clear pathways for promotion
- Mentorship and sponsorship opportunities
- Inclusive practices that reflect Aotearoa's unique cultural context

Inspiring Leadership in Practice

A standout example of this is the Women in Business Speaker Series hosted by Business North Harbour, which brings influential women together to share insights and inspiration in a relaxed,

social setting. On 20 March 2026, the event features Wendy Petrie with her talk “Have the courage to back yourself and embrace change.” The series is designed to empower women to lead with confidence, hear real business journeys including highs, lows and lessons learned and connect with peers and mentors in the local business community.

New Zealand businesses proudly champion values like fairness, integrity and community and at the heart of those values are the extraordinary women who bring them to life every single day. This International Women’s Day is more than a date on the calendar. It’s a powerful moment to celebrate the brilliance, resilience and leadership of women across Aotearoa, the innovators, decision-makers, caregivers, risk-takers and change-makers who strengthen our workplaces and communities in ways both visible and unseen.

When women thrive, businesses grow. When women lead, communities flourish. And when we back women boldly, Aotearoa rises with them.



Accelerating success.

Welcome To 61 Constellation Drive



Looking for professional office space in the popular **Constellation Drive** area? Various office tenancy options available with generous carparking.

Very efficient layouts and lift in the building, plus cafe on site and next to the Northern Busway park and ride. Easy access to East Coast Bays, motorways North, CBD and Western. These are exceptional office opportunities.

Features include:

- Tenancies from 150 - 580 sqm
- High quality office space
- Generous carparking
- Building security

For any commercial property leasing or sales enquiries within Auckland North Shore area, please **contact property expert Janet Marshall**, 021 684 775 or janet.marshall@colliers.com.

61 Constellation Drive

Opportunities For Local Suppliers To Be Involved In Auckland Council Contracts



Auckland Council is inviting potential suppliers to prepare for an **upcoming tender opportunity** for Full Facilities Maintenance and Management Services Contracts. For full details refer to the Advance Notice Of Information To Suppliers in the link below.

Read More

What’s Happening On Business.govt.nz

Stay In The Know



[Business.govt.nz](https://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

Visit [Business.govt.nz](https://business.govt.nz)

UK To New Zealand Pension Transfers Explained

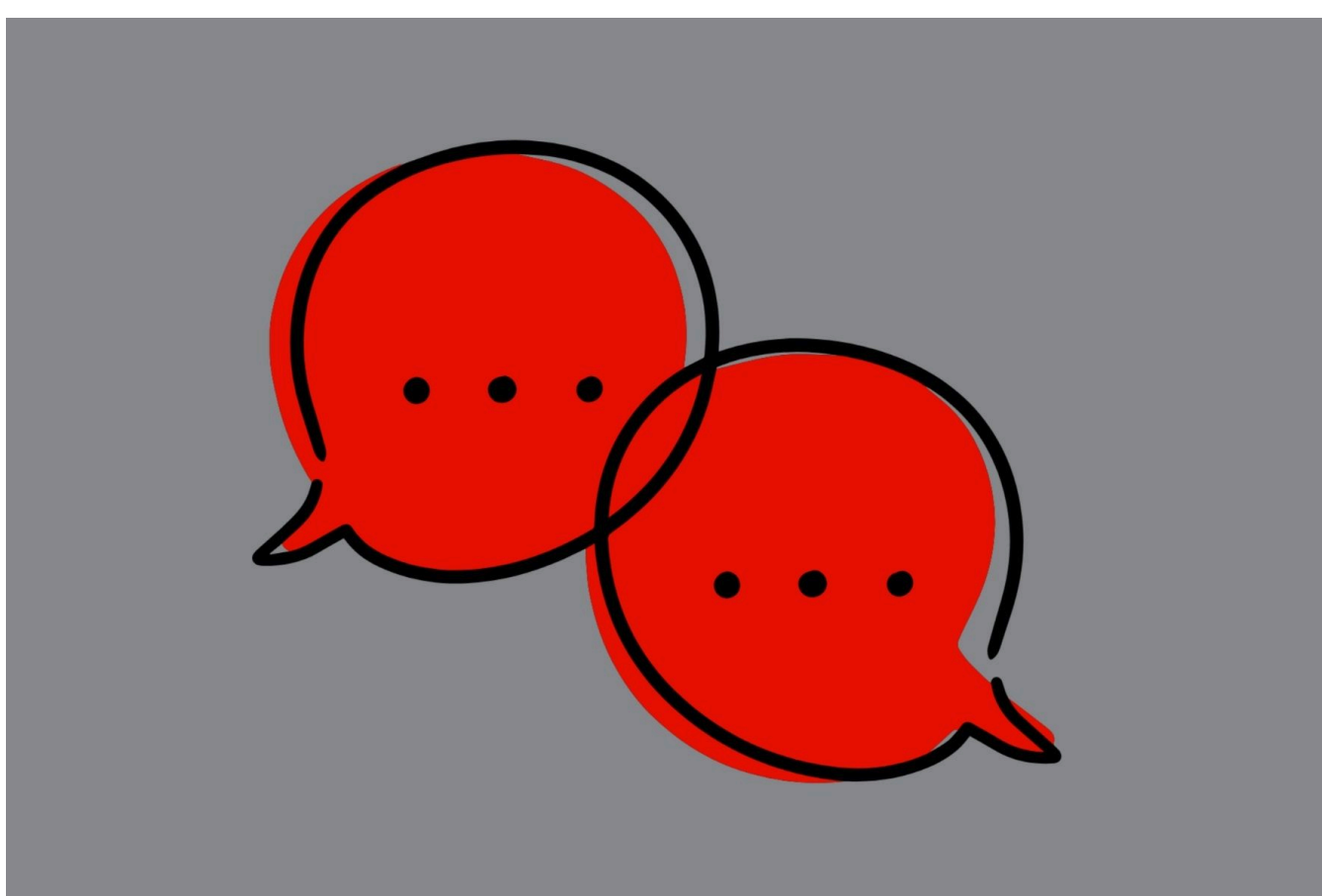


Navigating UK and New Zealand financial regulations can feel like shooting at moving goalposts. So, when something shifts in a potentially positive way, it's worth taking a moment to acknowledge and appreciate this. **NZ taxation rule changes**, due to come into effect on 1 April this year, could be good news for anyone who has previously been deterred from transferring their UK pension to New Zealand.

GBPensions director Tony Chamberlain explains more in his video and [blog post](#). There's also information on the [IRD Website](#).

[Watch the video](#)

Its Time To Have Your Say!



Public consultation on the **Auckland Council Annual Plan 2026/2027** closes on Sunday 29th March, so be sure to have your say on the Mayor's proposals which include a 7.9% rates rise for average value residential properties and a 9.84% rates increase for the average value business property. The Auckland Council Annual Plan will include information relating to the 50 BID programmes in operation across Auckland and the BID targeted rate information to be collected for 2026/2027.

Business Improvement Districts (BID) are areas within Auckland where local businesses have agreed to work together, with support from the council, to improve their business environment and attract new businesses and customers.

The funding for these initiatives comes from Auckland Council collecting a BID targeted rate, which the businesses within a set BID boundary have voted and agreed to pay to fund BID projects and activities delivered by the BID-operating business association.

The targeted rate will fund the provision of a BID grant paid to each BID-operating business association.

How the BID rates will be assessed

The BID targeted rates will be applied to urban business and rural business land, as defined for rating purposes, that is in the defined BID areas.

The BID targeted rates will be assessed using a fixed rate and or value-based rate on the capital value of the property. Each BID area may recommend to council that part of its budget be funded from a combination of a fixed rate (up to \$1,035, including GST) per rating unit with the remaining budget requirement funded from a value-based rate (applied as a rate in the dollar). Or funded from a value-based rate applied as a rate in the dollar only. There will be different rates for each BID programme.

To read more about the Annual Plan 2026/2027 visit: [Timeline for the Annual Plan 2026/2027 | Annual Plan 2026/2027 | AK Have Your Say](#)

For additional information relating to 2026/2027 BID targeted rates visit: [akhaveyoursay.nz/ourplan](#) for further information on the proposed changes to the targeted rate or visit [akhaveyoursay.nz/ratesguide](#) to find out about the proposed rates changes to your individual property.

For maps of the areas where the BID rates will apply visit: [BID rating maps](#)

Property information

Check your property's value and whether you are paying a targeted rate visit: [rates and valuations property search](#).

For individual property information visit: [Find your property rates or valuation](#)

For information on your local BID programme check out our website.

[Visit the BNH Website](#)

Are You Unknowingly Contributing To The Significant Pollution Problem In Rosedale?



Over the past couple of years, Council has been made aware of a number pollution events in the Rosedale Industrial area. As most stormwater doesn't get treated, any contaminants that enter the stormwater drains can end up in our waterways. This doesn't mean that industrial sites are necessarily putting things into the stormwater on purpose but there may be poor practices which are unintentionally contributing to the contamination of the waterways. Stormwater management is important on industrial sites due to the potential type, range and quantity of contaminants which could reach vulnerable environments. These contaminants can reduce the amount of available oxygen, change the nutrient levels, affect the temperature or pH or physically smother wildlife like Pukeko and Eels.

To help Auckland Council solve and end this significant pollution problem in Lucas Creek, please use the link below to **check whether or not your business is classed as an Industrial Trade**

Activity (ITA) and if it is, please ensure that you're disposing of your waste as per the best practice guidelines provided and you're not inadvertently contributing to the pollution.

Thank you for your support and assistance in cleaning up our local waterways.

[Read More on ITA](#)

Support for Businesses Navigating Workforce Change



The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) offers dedicated support for businesses experiencing workforce changes such as restructures, staff reductions, or closures. Their Early Response Team works alongside organisations to ensure employees are supported with care, clarity, and practical guidance during uncertain times.

How MSD Can Help

1. Financial Support

MSD assists employees who are between jobs by checking eligibility for financial support and helping them understand what options are available.

2. Redeployment & Career Transition

For those facing job loss, MSD provides personalised support, including:

- CV preparation and career advice
- Help transitioning into suitable employment or training
- Ongoing contact and assistance post-redundancy
- Access to further education and short-term training opportunities

Why Early Engagement Matters

Reaching out to the MSD Early Response Team as soon as possible—even before final decisions are made—allows them to work proactively with your business. Early involvement helps identify opportunities to retain staff, upskill team members, or support a smooth transition into new roles.

If you'd like more information or would like to connect with MSD's Early Response Team, we're happy to help.

[Learn More](#)

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](#)

Love this email? Share it with your team!

If you've got colleagues who'd enjoy staying in the loop about our events, opportunities, and updates, feel free to **forward this email** their way. We'd love to welcome more of your team into our community!

It's easy for them to join. By simply clicking the link below and **signing up to our mailing list**, they'll get all the latest news straight to their inbox.

[Sign Up to YOUR eNews](#)

Our Valued Partners

Thank you to our 2025-2026 PLATINUM PARTNERS

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Thank you to our 2025-2026 GOLD PARTNERS

BENEFITZ
→ Future thinkers.

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parkland

inspire*

Spark

Business Hub
Auckland
North

Thank you to our 2025-2026 SILVER PARTNERS

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TECHNOLOGY

VANGUARD
SECURITY

CONTACT: 09 968 2222 WEBSITE: www.businessnh.org.nz

EMAIL: admin@businessnh.org.nz OFFICE: Level 1, Unit 2, 322 Rosedale Road, Rosedale

POSTAL: PO Box 303126, North Harbour