

Chairperson's Annual Report

Year ended 30 June 2026

It has been a busy year for HVA, and for me personally it has been a big learning curve stepping into the role of Chair. I have really enjoyed the opportunity and have appreciated the support of the Executive Committee and the HVA team as I have found my feet.

For me, this year has largely been about **stabilising, continuing with the good work already underway and making sure HVA is in a strong position for the future.** There has been plenty happening, but I think there is real value in keeping things moving in the right direction without making things more complicated than they need to be.

The Executive Committee has continued to provide governance and direction, while our management team gets on with the important day-to-day work of running HVA. I think we have a good balance in place, with the Committee able to provide guidance and oversight while allowing the people responsible for the work to get on with it.

The year in Howick

The Howick Village Market continues to be a real strength for HVA and for the Village. The level of public support is clear, and it remains an important part of bringing people into Howick each Saturday, as well as providing an important income stream for the Association.

Our events programme has also continued to bring plenty of activity to the Village throughout the year. Events such as the Village Hop, Cultural Food Festival and Christmas Fair provide opportunities to showcase Howick, attract visitors and create activity for local businesses.

There are also the smaller things that help make the Village feel like the Village, whether that is the presentation of the streets, lighting of the trees and other initiatives that add to the overall atmosphere and experience of being in Howick.

It is encouraging to see the continued support from the community for these activities. Howick has a strong local following, but we also have an opportunity to attract more visitors from outside the area and make sure they have a reason to come back.

Working together

HVA is part of a much bigger network of people and organisations who all have an interest in the success of Howick. Maintaining good relationships with the Howick Local Board, Auckland Council, local organisations, businesses, property owners and the wider community continue to be an important part of what we do.

The business environment remains challenging and there is no shortage of things happening around us that can affect local businesses. This makes it important that HVA continues to be engaged, constructive and prepared to speak up for the interests of Howick when appropriate.

We also find ourselves in a general election year, with potential changes ahead at a central government level. While HVA is not a political organisation, changes in government policy can have a direct impact on the environment in which our businesses operate. Our role is to stay informed, maintain our relationships and make sure the interests of Howick are represented where they need to be.

At a local level, we will continue to advocate for the things that make Howick special. We want the Village to continue to evolve and thrive while retaining the character and community feel that people value.

Looking ahead

The next term will be an important one for HVA as we develop our next strategic plan. Our current plan is coming to the end of its term, so this is the right time to take a step back, look at where we are and agree on where we want to go next.

I am particularly looking forward to being involved in that process early next year. The strategic plan will provide the framework for what we focus on and where we put our time and resources, so it is important that we get it right and that it reflects what is important to our members and the wider BID community.

I see the role as Chair as being about helping to keep us moving in the right direction, making sure we have good governance around us and giving the management team the support and space they need to do their jobs well. We don't need to be involved in every detail, but we do need to make sure we are asking the right questions, making good decisions and keeping our focus on the bigger picture.

Thank you

I would like to thank all of the Executive Committee members for the time and commitment they have given to HVA over the past year. Everyone is a volunteer with their own business and other commitments, and I genuinely appreciate the contribution each person makes.

A big thank you also to Katie and the HVA team for everything they do to keep things moving. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes, and the work of the team is a big part of what allows HVA to deliver for the Village.

Thank you also to our members, business and property owners, sponsors, the Howick Local Board and the wider Howick community for your continued support.

Howick is in a good position, and I think there is plenty to be positive about as we keep moving forward.

Sam Dalzell

Chairperson

Howick Village Association Inc.