

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Dear member,

Although 2020 may have been a year like no other, it's clear that 2021 will continue to bring challenges for Auckland and all of us living and working here.

Following our successful events in the latter part of last year on reinvigorating the Auckland City Centre and Working Smarter in Auckland, this week we drill down on the accelerating challenge that cyber-attacks constitute for our organisations with a case study virtual presentation by Lion.

We have also been offered the opportunity to tour the site of the Auckland City Mission's ground-breaking new \$110 million HomeGround facility to help better address homelessness in central Auckland.

We would like to acknowledge the retirement of Sir Ron Carter ONZ KNZM as a Patron of the Committee for Auckland. Sir Ron was an instrumental force in the early years of the Committee. He served as a director for eight years from 2004.

When he was appointed as a Member of the Order of New Zealand, the country's highest honour, the citation notes his time as Chair of the Committee and the groundwork he laid in this role for the amalgamated Auckland Council.

The board is very grateful for his extensive service to Auckland and for the significant and long-lasting impact his efforts have made.

Please keep an eye out for future events as we work with members and stakeholders to help Auckland continue to cope with longer-term Covid challenges while also focusing on the issues we need to solve to realise Auckland's full potential.

Sincerely,  
Mark Thomas

## RECENT EVENTS

### *Lion Cyber-attack webinar*

We held our first webinar last night with Luke Sawyer and Kendall Nicholas from Lion who shared their experience and recovery of Lion's cyber-attacks last year. Lion was subject to a major cyber-attack in June 2020 forcing an almost three-week shutdown of its brewery production and related services.

The incident was a major learning opportunity for an increasingly technologically integrated industry and came on the back of a report from the FBI of 400% increase in cyber-attacks since Covid-19 started.

### *Working Smarter in Auckland*

Working Smarter in Auckland explored the extent to which WFH (working from home) is becoming an embedded part of organisations' practices, what implications that is having on Auckland's work sites and occupancy plans, and what the future opportunities and risks are of associated with new technology practices.

AUT's Professor Charles Walker moderated the panel and challenged the panellists to consider how well the compact city approach responds to a pandemic. He also raised what impact accelerated digitisation is having on the 20th century typologies underpinning Auckland's existing CBD/suburb layout.

Lana West, ASB Retail's Head of People & Culture, explained that fatigue from Auckland's second wave had re-emphasised the new steps the bank had needed to implement for those of whom working from home was not a safe option.

Warren and Mahoney's Auckland Principal Andrew Tu'inukuafae emphasised the acceleration to a more distributed, flexible, smaller, and sustainable workplace. He highlighted a Leesman



Image above: (from left) Andrew Tu'inukuafae - Warren and Mahoney, Professor Charles Walker - AUT, Lana West - ASB and Pat Macfie - Manaaki

WFH survey of 126,000 people showing 80% could work effectively at home, but that complex roles were more productive in the workplace.

Former Xero Global Media Director, Pat Macfie, co-founded small business advisory platform Maanaki in the first week of the Level 4 lockdown. The platform Facebook page called Chooice has grown from zero to 540,000 members since lockdown. Pat contended that Covid-19 had exposed another aspect of real poverty across Auckland and that emphasised a key challenge within the region was to deal with a growing digital divide that working smarter means.

## NEWS & PUBLICATIONS

### *Auckland Recovery Survey Follow-up*

The Committee's follow-up Auckland Recovery survey highlighted the challenge Auckland Council may have as it tries to focus Aucklanders on the region's longer-term priorities as many remain preoccupied with Covid-19 induced issues. The council begins consultation on its new ten-year plan in early 2021.

The Committee surveyed members, stakeholders, and Future Auckland Leader alumni from 13 to 23 November. This followed the first survey in May, when the country was in Level 2.

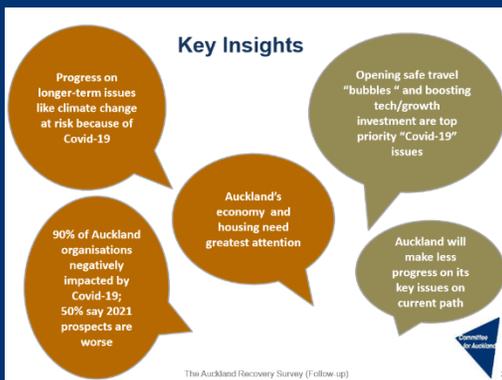
The follow-up survey found that after eight months of Covid-19, the top priority issue for Auckland organisations remains the economy with housing having risen into second place, just ahead of poverty.

Significantly, when asked to think about Auckland's top priorities once Covid-19 was under control, the economy and housing still dominated, followed closely by transport. Issues such as climate change and the impact of technology lagged in the survey.

90% of Auckland organisations now say they have been negatively impacted by Covid-19. More than 50% said they anticipate their business prospects over the next year would deteriorate, although this is an improvement from May when nearly 70% stated they thought this would be the case. Although some said Covid-19 adversities had increased somewhat during the last eight months, 77% still thought Covid-19 presented greater opportunities for Auckland than challenges.

The Committee has sent the findings to Council, and to the Prime Minister Ardern and to Finance and Infrastructure Minister Robertson. The survey results will help drive the Committee's engagement and work programme in 2021.

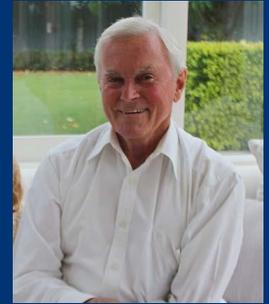
[You can read the Newsroom story regarding the results here.](#)



## UPDATE

### *Sir Ron Carter retirement*

The Board would like to extend a vote of thanks from the current (and former) board members and trustees concerning his long service to the Committee for Auckland as Patron.



It has been hugely interesting to learn of the genesis of the Committee for Auckland's forerunner, Competitive Auckland, and the significant role CfA played in the formation of the Super City.

We consider there remains a role for an apolitical, civic-minded organisation such as CfA acting in the best interests of the city and to better connect business, key stakeholders, and local government. The current board certainly harbours similar aspirations to CfA's founders – the creation of a better Auckland for all.

## UPCOMING EVENT

### *Auckland City Mission's HomeGround site visit – Friday 5 March, 1 – 2pm*

Committee for Auckland has been invited to visit Auckland City Mission's HomeGround development, which is nearing completion and due to open later this year. The Mission's ground-breaking community facility will assist in solving chronic homelessness in Auckland. A small group will have the opportunity to visit the HomeGround site together with Chris Farrelly, Auckland City Missioner, who can share the kaupapa of the development. We have limited spaces left, please get in touch by emailing [Committee for Auckland](mailto:Committee for Auckland) if you are interested in participating in this site visit. Spaces will be allocated on a first in, first served basis.

## MEMBERSHIP

### *New members*

Creating a Better Auckland: Renew your membership or join us to inform the Committee's advocacy with government and inform the broader public debate.

Contact us to discuss your membership options and prices.

E: [admin@committee forauckland.co.nz](mailto:admin@committee forauckland.co.nz)