

Issue 196. May 2023

Round about.

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**From Gridlock
to Art-Block**

C-Tech

Humble Beginnings

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Cover: Robin Brehmer, daughter of Kurt Brehmer carrying on the legacy of the Avondale conservationist.



With thanks to our partners ...



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From My Perspective

Phil Clode, Business Development Manager, phil@rosebankbusiness.co.nz



If you've followed any of our previous stories about the Kurt Brehmer Walkway, you may be familiar with the cover star of this month's issue of Roundabout: Robin Brehmer. Daughter of Avondale conservationist Kurt Brehmer and member of the Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway, Robin has been volunteering and coordinating efforts at the walkway since its opening 20 years ago. The Kurt Brehmer Walkway runs from the Westend Rowing Club back towards Avondale, alongside the Whau River. Be

sure to take a stroll there for a beautiful bush walk in the middle of the city.

Exciting news - I'm pleased to announce RBA's new partnership with Amplifier Design. When we needed an expert design company to help with our RBA Membership launch and offering, we looked to Amplifier. A creative communications agency, Amplifier works collaboratively with clients to understand their industry, business and customers. They're experts at harnessing the right platforms to reach your audiences with the right message at the right time.

Tristan and the team there pride themselves on the longevity of their relationships with clients, most of which have partnered with the business in excess of 15 years. Our own experience with Amplifier has produced a partnership for the next year and hopefully long into the future. Thank you to Tristan and his team for joining forces with us at the RBA.

Looking for a new way to meet people and have fun? Check out our story about the New Lynn Bowling Club on page 14. Simon Poppleton is the new manager there, and he has big plans for the historic club. The RBA will be holding a fun event in June for all our members to



give bowls a go, so watch this space.

Also in this issue, we have a look at high-quality carbon composite manufacturing company C-Tech, which moved to Rosebank in 2010 after growing out of the work they did with Team New Zealand and as the exclusive supplier of sail battens to the America's Cup. Although C-Tech is still heavily involved with the America's Cup, they now also have many clients across the automotive, aerospace and aviation industries.

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate RBA Chairman Stefan Crooks on his completion of the Paris Marathon on April 2nd. It's a hard gig running your first marathon, so well done, Stefan.

Regards,

Phil Clode,
Business Development Manager





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Rosebank Advocates

With **Dr Grant Hewison**, specialising in local government consultancy and legal services



Are we building harder, hotter cities? The vital importance of urban green spaces

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment ('PCE') has recently carried out a project investigating the importance of urban green space. Link The project pays particular attention to Auckland.

Dr Grant Hewison

The resulting PCE Report 'Are we building harder, hotter cities? The vital importance of urban green spaces' (16 March 2023) (Link) notes that urban green space such as parks, reserves, gardens, sports fields and private yards provide people with a connection to nature, valuable habitat for indigenous species, and ecosystem services such as stormwater management, temperature regulation and aquifer recharge.

However, there is currently a strong push to increase the supply of housing to improve housing affordability. This risks urban green space being either gradually eroded or not adequately provided for. The Commissioner's project provides an insight into how urban green space in New Zealand has changed over time and assesses the barriers that hinder its provision.

Strong population growth and rising consumption in our major cities demanded change. To freeze the frame of urban form would be to strangle that dynamic. But what sort of form should accommodate all that dynamism? We are all familiar with the debate over sprawl versus densification. For decades people have frowned at the loss of highly productive land. More recently climate change has added to those concerns. Sprawling, low density cities are energivores.

The PCE Report concludes that New Zealand's urban green spaces face two clear pressures moving forward - population growth and climate change.

The Report recognises that our urban centres are becoming denser. "Packing more people into them will almost certainly increase the demand for green space for the recreational, wellbeing and environmental services they provide. But the way we are building more houses to accommodate a growing population places existing green space at risk and makes the provision of new green space more difficult within existing urban boundaries and more costly everywhere."

The Report also recognises that our climate is changing. "The environmental services urban green spaces provide will be more important in a warmer, more extreme world. Unfortunately, the ecosystems providing those services will be under increasing heat and water stress. Even if our 'typical' Auckland suburb does not grow over the next 20 years, climate change means our green spaces will have to help mitigate between 0.5 and 1 °C of additional warming and have to deal with more weather extremes too. If ongoing intensification and infill development result in a continued loss of green space, then increasingly stressed ecosystems will be asked to do even more than they do now to help mitigate up to 1.3 °C of additional warming."

This outcome, concludes the Report, is not preordained. But the choices we make today about how we want to manage population growth, urban form and green spaces will be ones we live with forever.

The key recommendations from the Report include: (i) Ensuring that the full range of services provided by green spaces, and the extent to which these could be compromised by urban development, is explicitly assessed by councils so that trade-offs are made on an informed basis; (ii) Monitoring and measuring the extent of green space in a consistent way; (iii) Encouraging councils and relevant government agencies to take actions to improve the quality and/or quantity of green space in suburbs where it is in decline or in otherwise short supply; and (iv) Reviewing the way green space is reconfigured in the wake of inner-city development and intensification, and the way new green space is set aside in greenfield developments.

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Kim's Corner

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Crime, Boy Racers & Rosebank's Most Wanted

As I sit down to write this month's Kim's Corner the topic that is hot for me right now is safety.

Since the new year, the Boy Racers are back in Rosebank with renewed vigor and there have been numerous sightings of 100+ cars attending these burnout events. These guys have lookouts posted, so by the time the police arrive everyone has dispersed.

The RBA has been working with Auckland Roding Police to try and come up with ideas on how to curb this issue. Last year we put up liquor ban signage hoping to deter groups of people from congregating, and this appears to have had some success as we are not having the same issues in Charann Place.

As this goes to print you will see that we now have some new

signage up around Rosebank notifying everyone that there are CCTV cameras operating in the area. What this now does is make our little lawbreakers aware that they are being watched. With a total of nine signs at the entranceway to all our dead-end streets as well as both Rosebank and Patiki Road off-ramps, we can't say we aren't giving enough warning!

Burglaries are still occurring, and I can't emphasise enough the importance of staying vigilant and removing any temptations from prying eyes. If a burglary or even attempted burglary does occur, please report it to the police. Every time this happens you are adding to a report log that tallies how many burglaries are happening in our area and thus creating a 'hot spot'. The more hot spots we have the more resources are allocated to our Rosebank area. If we aren't reporting, then we won't have hot spots and then very few police resources.

For those of you who love statistics, policedata.nz provides you with a crime snapshot report that is a quick overview of crime victimisations in your area.

<https://www.police.govt.nz/about-us/publications-statistics/data-and-statistics/policedatanz>

Victimisations by Police Boundary and Month

Police District	Year Month										Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Northland	927	10,986	11,180	11,486	11,284	10,899	11,274	11,625	14,227	1,302	95,190
Waitemata	1,877	23,572	25,136	22,951	23,595	24,902	22,974	25,724	32,594	3,147	206,472
Auckland City	2,979	35,523	33,785	30,959	28,908	31,854	29,218	38,288	45,777	4,429	281,720
Counties/Manukau	2,680	35,478	38,326	38,346	35,498	36,159	32,961	35,895	46,033	4,160	305,536
Waikato	1,747	20,470	22,553	23,797	22,929	26,385	25,628	29,103	36,253	3,271	212,136
Bay Of Plenty	1,738	22,512	24,176	23,635	23,632	27,284	26,914	28,370	31,512	3,087	212,860
Eastern	1,247	14,871	17,707	18,380	16,929	17,612	17,568	17,612	18,602	1,943	142,471
Central	1,554	18,318	20,608	22,043	20,811	24,107	22,326	23,729	27,282	2,609	183,387
Wellington	2,198	26,453	25,340	26,095	24,878	28,695	26,550	29,498	34,700	2,926	227,333
Tasman	688	7,527	8,354	7,718	6,880	7,615	7,851	8,039	8,563	916	64,151
Canterbury	2,534	30,128	30,123	29,371	32,876	35,215	31,117	34,673	45,479	4,210	275,726
Southern	926	10,922	11,057	10,827	10,447	11,417	9,919	10,958	12,412	1,223	90,108
Not Specified					3	3	2	1			9
Total	21,095	256,760	268,345	265,608	258,670	282,147	264,302	293,515	353,434	33,223	2,297,099

A 'Most Wanted' poster has always conjured up bad connotations, but this idea was thought up with the opposite in mind. The Neighbourhood Watch burglary blog/report is predominantly bad news and so we at the RBA wanted to bring you some 'good news'. The prerequisite for Rosebank's MOST WANTED is to have done a selfless act out of kindness. We thought it only fair that there be two categories - one for an individual and one for a business/team. Going into our 2nd month we have Stefan Crooks from Westie Food Group who stepped it out for Diabetes NZ at the Schneider Electric Marathon de Paris, and KPL Distribution who donated magnifying glasses to Rosebank School along with various items to our local early childhood centres. Congratulations to Stefan and KPL Distribution.



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50m² unconsented mezzanine.

Max McCarthy, Meir Alfassi



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Max McCarthy, Meir Alfassi



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Rosebank News & Events

News, views and any other tidbits from the Rosebank Business Community.

Spark Business Hub Waitakere present the 'Internet of Things'



Stonger Together

If one connected device could help a business become more productive and sustainable, what could millions of connected devices do?

Join us for the Spark Innovation Studio Roadshow, as they make a special pit stop to come and chat with us at this important seminar.

Spark - Internet of Things

Where: 50 Rosebank Road, Avondale
When: Thursday, 4th May, 2023
Time: 7.45am - 9.30am
RSVP: anouschka@rosebankbusiness.co.nz

RBA hosting with Autex Industries



Stonger Together

Join us at Autex's brand new showroom, where you can see their world class products on display and get to meet and connect with your business neighbours in a casual setting over drinks and canapes.

Make sure to bring your business card as there will be great spot prizes up for grabs!

AUTEX Hosting

Where: 702/718 Rosebank Road, Avondale
When: Thursday, 25th May, 2023
Time: 5.00pm - 7.00pm
RSVP: anouschka@rosebankbusiness.co.nz

RBA and EMA present: Business Continuity Planning

Stonger Together



Recent history has shown disaster can strike us at any time. Now is the right time to future-proof your business. Are you prepared to keep your business running in the face of an unexpected crisis? If not, it's time to act now.

Join our "Mayday" Business Continuity Planning workshop and prepare your own plan to help prepare for the worst and reduce the impacts and costs of a future disaster. You'll join other business owners and gain valuable insights into how to keep your business running no matter what happens.

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Don't wait until it's too late - join us today and get the peace of mind you need to keep your business thriving, no matter what challenges you may face

EMA Event

Where: 50 Rosebank Road, Avondale
When: Tuesday, 30th May, 2023
Time: 8.00am - 10.00am
RSVP: anouschka@rosebankbusiness.co.nz

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From Gridlock to Art-Block

Whau Arts Festival 2023 | #OpenStreets

By Kerrie Subritzky

Each year the Whau Arts Festival is presented in a unique format, adapting its presentation to the vision of the local community and current issues. Now in its eighth year, this time the festival spilled onto the streets of Avondale tapping into the worldwide Open Streets phenomena that has been gaining traction in major cities around the world for several years.

As far back as 2015, Whau The People (WTP) had a vision of an on-street festival for Whau. However, as a 'car-centred' city and as a relatively radical idea, closing a street in Auckland for an arts and community event was not well understood at the time.

Fast forward to last year, WTP learned about the Open Streets project and approached AT with the offer to incorporate the Whau Arts Festival within the Open Streets framework, as the first of four events planned by four different Avondale organisations. The timeframe was shorter than usual, but fortunately WTP stayed ready, and were able to pull on their networks of artists, businesses, and local organisations they have built relationships with over the years, with the result that they were able to deliver a street festival of international quality in a very compressed time-frame.

Following the #OpenStreets format, Great North Road was closed to traffic for the afternoon and evening of Saturday, 15th April, from Rosebank Road down to the iconic Spider sculpture (opposite Crayford Street West) - a distance of approximately 200 metres, allowing the festival to spill out into the street.

"The festival offered a unique opportunity for the community to come together," says Janet Lilo who, along with Jody

Yawa McMillan is a co-founding member of WTP. "We wanted to celebrate homegrown creatives and allow festival-goers to be fully immersed in the many fantastic performances and activities programmed for the day".

From 3pm till 7pm the event hosted hundreds of people who braved brisk winds to enjoy the performances and activities on offer, with a live stage of musical acts pumping out talent for the entire duration, such as MC King Kapisi, Basant Madhur Ensemble, rapper Ƴoung Gho\$, the Maine Kweenz, Sau e Siva and many more.

The event was kicked off with a march down the street led by the Waitakere Brass Band, who legend has it have been around longer than the Rolling Stones. Public artworks were showcased; exhibitions such as artist Sean Kerr who uses the artificial intelligence chatbot chatGPT to create unique and dynamic art; Jimmy Ma'ia'i workshopped with local schools using picnic tables as canvases, and a new mural by artist Eva Fuemana was completed during the event. Hoop-La engaged audiences in what a better street and town could look like, while Mana Rākau created learning opportunities about nature and tree care while abseiling the trees that line Avondale's main street. Cycling enthusiasts will have enjoyed the appearance of Bike Auckland's Bike Valet, and Bike Avondale's 'Arty Bike up'.

A range of food and drink options were on offer – all from local vendors in the street - including ice creams from the Punters dairy, pork buns from Taste of Samoa, and Oka from Pignic who sped up opening in their new location on Main Street, in time for the festival. For those who preferred to sit while eating, they

could do so at the longest dining table Great North Road had ever seen, while enjoying the festivities.

Working with local businesses

"Bringing each Whau Arts Festival to life is a unique experience, the nature of closing a road to traffic meant we [WTP] got to collaborate with some organisations we hadn't in the past, including Men at Work [traffic management] and AT which was both interesting and challenging at times. It was new for all of us!" says Jody



Yawa McMillan. "It was decided early on that there needed to be someone local dedicated to introducing Open Streets and the bigger picture into the community, as well as focusing on the long-term vision that temporarily closing streets to traffic and opening them to our communities can be more obtainable. We were fortunate Jessica Rose (previous Whau Local Board member), could come on board and hold this role. It also means each local organisation can focus on designing and delivering their own event, within the Open Streets framework. Avondale Business Association (ABA) was on board from the get-go, and individual businesses as well", she said.

Jody emphasized the importance of considering the benefits to business

owners. They made the decision not to get external food trucks in and instead incorporated vendors in the streets. This approach received positive responses from businesses, some of whom were so busy they actually ran out of food, proving that opening streets like this can be great for local businesses.

“It was such a positive experience going around to the businesses and talking with them individually,” says Jody. They discovered hidden talents in some of the businesses, such as the owner of the Punters dairy who also offered henna designs, and Urban Kurl, which, she says, “totally rocked it on the day. They saw the opportunities that were available and went for it. Some businesses were understandably hesitant as closing the street is not usually synonymous with increasing business, but in this case it was and it was exciting to see the benefits for those businesses who did and helped make an amazing event”.

Local businesses familiar to the RBA were also present in various forms on the day through promotional material, such as signage, printing and artworks. Not to mention Goff and team from The Production Co. who were intrinsic on the day for providing staging, sound and lighting.

Reiterating the importance of art for the community, Jody says: “Art is an essential way of mirroring and celebrating our experiences and identity, and the festival has developed a reputation of showcasing the unique expression of the community’s diversity, captured by incredible local artists and paying them for their work.”

Whau The People Charitable Trust is an interdisciplinary arts organisation, focused on creating opportunities for local people to

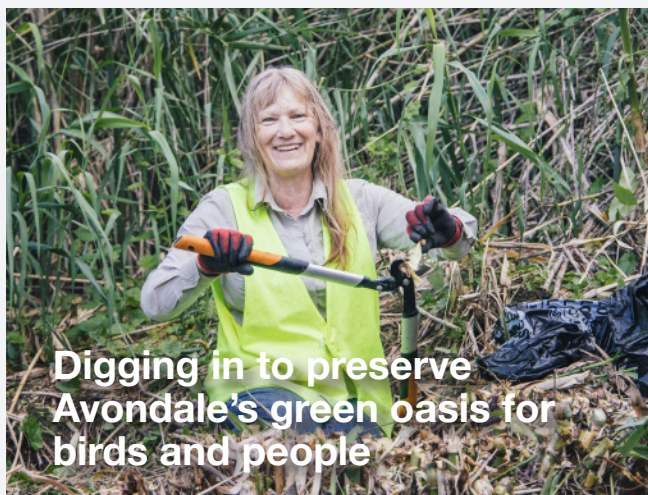


access and participate in the arts within their communities. They do this by leading, supporting, and advocating on community arts projects that bring together artists and community to empower, educate and connect.

Find out more about them here: www.whauipeople.com

Three more Open Streets events are planned for the same Avondale location this year:

- Friday 30 June, Matariki: From Traffic Lights to Starry Nights
Organisers: Bike Avondale
- Saturday 30 September, From Bumper2Bumper to Block Party
Organisers: I Love Avondale
- Date TBC, Xmas: From Cars to Carols
Organisers: Avondale Collaboration Network



A West Auckland conservation group is working hard to care for a patch of local bush on the Rosebank Peninsula, both for the good of the neighbours and for native birds to nest.

Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway was established three years ago and its members, a group of people who share an interest in conservation and community, are continuing to carry on the legacy of Avondale conservationist Kurt Brehmer, who was an integral part of early conservation efforts in the area.

“We’re getting rid of weeds in the bush, including Arundo donax, moth plant and Madeira vine, and replanting the gaps with eco-sourced plants. The walkway will benefit everyone in the area, including workers on the Rosebank Peninsula who can take a walk during their lunch break,” says coordinator Robin Brehmer,

Kurt Brehmer’s daughter.

Avondale is undergoing large-scale urban development, so getting into nature is even more important, says Robin.

“Many people don’t have backyards any more, but they still need to go out there and see a bit of green for their mental and physical health. The walkway is a wonderful asset for Avondale, running alongside the Whau River. “

“The bush strip along the walkway is also a vital link in the Whau Wildlink for the birds to pass through,” says Robin.

A keen tramper and lover of the outdoors, Robin has been volunteering at the walkway since its opening 20 years ago, and says it is a wonderful way of contributing and being part of the community.

“It’s our neighbourhood and our community. We’re so lucky to have the support of the Whau Local Board and Auckland Council in our project. ”

Friends of Kurt Brehmer Walkway group is a member of the Whau Wildlink project, which brings together groups passionate about creating thriving green havens for native birds. This supports the greater vision of the North-West Wildlink, to maintain a green corridor between the pest-free sanctuary of Tiriti-Matangi in the Hauraki Gulf, and the Waitākere Ranges in the West.

The group meets weekly at 9am on Thursday mornings and welcomes anyone keen to be in the outdoors or contribute to the community, meet new people and do a bit for climate change. If you’re interested, contact Robin at friends.of.kbwalkway@gmail.com

Let the Good Times Bowl

It's the new guy's turn.

He steps to the edge of the green, colourful ball in hand. Under the warm sun, surrounded by his work colleagues, he's about to make his first-ever attempt at lawn bowls - only too aware that the boss is watching. But once the ball is successfully rolling down the grass, our new guy discovers what many have known since the game's invention in ancient Egypt: not only is lawn bowls easy to play, it's fun, too.

Simon Poppleton, manager of New Lynn Bowling Club, has seen this scenario play out dozens of times, and he'd be the first to encourage a new player to give it a go. "The beauty of bowls is it can be played by anybody," he says. "It doesn't matter how old you are, how young you are, what physical shape you're in - you can play bowls."

New Lynn Bowling Club has been a fixture in the community for decades. Founded in 1927 on the purchase of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre on Reid Road (for the princely sum of 259 pounds), the club offers an outdoor grass green and a covered artificial green, New Zealand's first when it was built seven years ago. But there is much more to the club than bowls alone.



With its covered space, full kitchen, and spacious lounge (boasting a capacity of 150 people), the club is the perfect venue for functions and events. The entertainment options on hand go beyond the greens, with several dartboards, pokies "for the dangerous people," Simon laughs, and an option to set up group quizzes for corporate clients. The club kitchen offers a weekly menu of hot, hearty pub-style food - think lasagne, burgers and chips, steak, and tandoori chicken - and works with a trusted caterer to offer the likes of canapes, a roast dinner menu and buffet. Not only that, but Spanish-style market favourite Paella Pan is on call to set up a sizzling feast for any and all dietary requirements.

The main draw of the club is, of course, a social game of bowls, and you would be hard-pressed to find a man more enthusiastic about the sport than Simon. An indoor bowls national titleholder in 2004, Simon has been playing indoor bowls since he was 13, outdoor since age 19, at clubs around the North Island. He joined New Lynn Bowling Club in February after a successful stint as Business Development Manager at Takapuna Bowling Club, and he's keen to get more people interested in joining the fun at New Lynn.

"Bowls is one of those games where it's easy to play, hard to master," says Simon. "Easy to play, but there's more to it than people realise."

For the uninitiated, lawn bowling is a strategic hand-eye coordination game, perhaps most similar to ten-pin bowling in the delivery of the ball and chess or golf in the level of skill a player can build.

"The winding of the arm back and the follow-through is a similar action to ten-pin bowling," says Simon. "Although it's more of a finesse game. The bowl actually goes quite fast along the green - that's the biggest thing people find who've never played before. They really huff it then go, 'Ooh, that's quite fast.'"

People love bowls, he says, because of the social aspect and because it's easy to play. "You can be nine to 90 to play, and it's not divided by

gender. You can play mixed teams."

Coming up at the club are lots of opportunities to try the game for yourself, where local businesses will be invited to have a go.

And although you could be forgiven for thinking that bowls is an older person's game - most clubs have a membership that is almost entirely aged 70 plus - New Lynn Bowling Club is a great social venue for players of all ages, says Simon.

"The ages of our members range from 40s to 60s and 70s. It's a different scenario from most bowling clubs, where at least 90% of the players are retired. Most of our members still work."

Simon is passionate about introducing the game to an even younger generation. He has begun working with St. Dominic's College in Henderson to train keen students after a spike of interest following the recent National Secondary School Championships, and Avondale College comes to New Lynn Bowling Club every week for a practice.

"I want to set up a tri-sport series where the students try outdoor bowls, indoor bowls and darts," he says, an idea warmly supported by the sport's governing body, Bowls New Zealand.

No matter your skill level, or that of those attending your upcoming event or function, Simon and his team at New Lynn Bowling Club are ready to make your experience fun, friendly, and fuss free.

"All the gear is provided for you," he says. "All you have to do when you come to the club is wear soft-soled shoes."

Get in touch with Simon and the team at New Lynn Bowling Club by email on bowlnewlynn@xtra.co.nz or visit their website: <https://www.newlynnbowls.co.nz/>.

New Lynn Bowling Club

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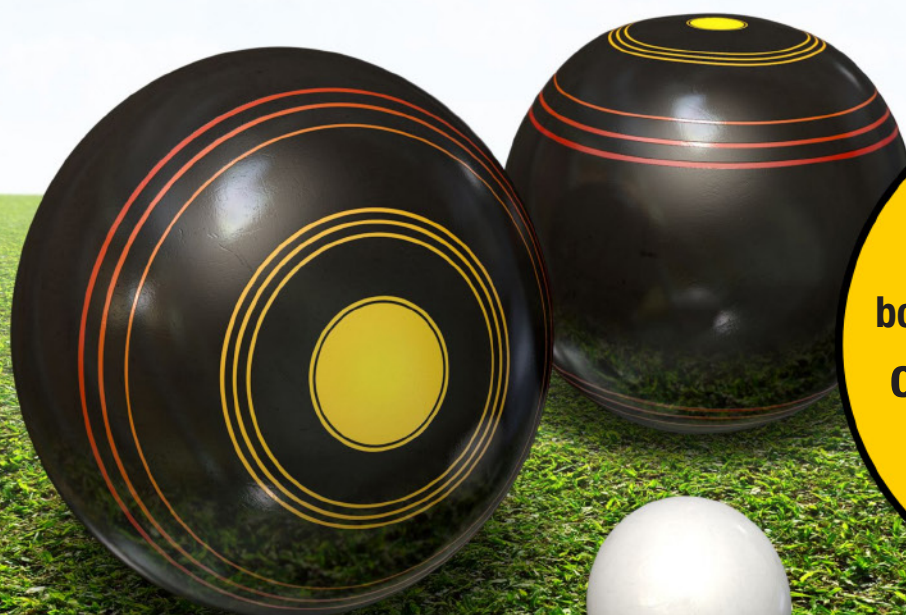
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Humble Beginnings

Since its inception in 1997, C-Tech has undergone significant growth and development under the leadership of its founder, Alex Vallings. Initially starting out as a fitter and turner, Vallings drew upon his sailing experience, engineering expertise, and comprehensive understanding of material properties to establish C-Tech as a superior composites manufacturer.

Over the years, C-Tech has continually evolved in the production of premium carbon composites, providing a wide range of products to customers across 97 countries. As a result of the company's success, they widened operations in 2010 during their move to a purpose custom-built factory that met all their manufacturing needs.

Recently, the staff at C-Tech had the opportunity to visit the 'farm' where it all commenced. Families and children joined the team for a full afternoon of activities and fun (on the now grassy property). The trip was a chance for employees to connect with the company's roots and learn more about its history. An experience that left a lasting impression on everyone who attended, highlighting just how far C-Tech has come over the past 26 years. It was a particularly special trip as the company was also celebrating its 4th employee to reach their 15-year anniversary, who all initially started working out on the farm and were then a part of the company's move to the factory on Rosebank Road.



Above: 1997 C-Tech's operation was housed in the above shed.
Below: The 2010 construction of C-Tech's current headquarters.

Back in 1997, C-Tech was a small operation that was housed in a farm shed in West Auckland. It wasn't until 2003, one of the most significant moments in the company's history, where Alex and Lyn signed the contract on behalf of C-Tech to become the exclusive batten supplier to both Defender and Challenger in the 2003 America's Cup!!! This breakthrough was HUGE and allowed the company to grow its operations evolving into a major player in the composite industry. And by 2007, all America's Cup teams were



using C-Tech Sail Battens. The company has since led the market in battens and sail hardware worldwide.

C-Tech has continued their relationship with the America's Cup and has been a supplier for every AC event since, enabling the company to design and manufacture award-winning products. While roots remain firmly in the marine industry their race proven and composite expertise were ever growing and attracting exciting projects from across many industries such as automotive, aerospace, industrial and aviation, where they are continually revolutionising the game.

Today, C-Tech is at the forefront of manufacturing high-quality carbon composites on a global scale. Supplying over 1000+ companies and now expanding its operations into the EU. C-Tech's continual commitment to its core values and principles, which include quality, innovation, and staff well-being, were emphasised on the visit and the company's growth is a testament to this commitment.

The farm where C-Tech started out is a far cry from the state-of-the-art factory





that the company now occupies. One of the unique takeaways was the team's ability to create an innovative and efficient manufacturing process by utilising its surroundings in a revolutionary way. This visit provided a remarkable opportunity to witness the company's origins and understand how its humble beginnings have shaped its success.

The C-Tech staff and families visiting the 'farm' where it all began



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Did you know..



PTTFT Awardees

Our last three awardees for 2022 received trophies to the delight of family members and company boss at the Willory Agencies hosting.



Rosebank Easter Bunny Hunt

This fun activity had work colleagues and families combing our RBA website for hidden Easter bunnies. With this year's theme centering around the bunny, it was only apt that we used Molly Woppy's Easter treats as the mainstay for our spot prizes. Congratulations to all our winners!



Mayoral visit

Wayne Brown came to town on the 22nd of March for an informal get-together to shed some light on the Auckland Council Annual Budget for 2023/2024.



Willory Agencies hosting

Willory Agencies hosting on the 8th of March incorporated a fun night with businesses connecting, spot prize giveaways, and an opportunity to purchase pots.



Membership Card

In March we launched our RBA Membership card for our RBA members and their employees.



Fruit care packs

Once again, the RBA walked the streets delivering fruit care packs with the simple message 'To share is to care' to our 600 businesses, three neighbouring schools, and two food refuge centres.



'Rosebank's Most Wanted'

'Rosebank's Most Wanted' is to acknowledge people in our Rosebank community who have done 'good deeds'. Stefan Crooks from Westie Food Group completed the Schneider Electric Marathon de Paris on the 2nd of April. Congratulations Stefan for stepping it out for Diabetes NZ and fulfilling a personal goal.

www.rosebankbusiness.co.nz

CCTV

The RBA will be erecting nine CCTV in-operation signs around the Rosebank BID area as a deterrent message for burglars and boy racers.



Pathways to the Future Award

2023 has got off to a ripper start with 18 nominations being submitted for the Pathways to the Future Award.



Welcome to the new UHY Haines Norton Director Emma Simpson

UHY Haines Norton is excited to announce the appointment of their new Director Emma Simpson.

Emma has 25 years' experience in the accounting industry. "Accounting for me is like a puzzle," she says, "it is taking all the pieces and putting them together to make something meaningful." Her father, Richard Benjamin, ran successful chartered accounting

business, RL Benjamin Chartered Accountant on the North Shore.

Emma joined her father's firm in 2002 and when Richard sadly passed away in 2016, Emma continued his legacy by running and growing the business.

Moving on from RL Benjamin was a tough decision, but Emma feels the timing couldn't be better. "The last few years have seen a huge increase in the amount and complexity of compliance forced on to businesses - especially small- to medium-sized businesses," she explains. "Having the support of a practice as reputable and accomplished as UHY will be a great advantage for my clients."

With a long association with UHY and like-minded professional values, Emma is thrilled to be joining the firm as their newest Director and Board member. "Joining UHY really is a wonderful opportunity both for myself and my clients," she says. "Being part of a bigger team is exciting and challenging - and I'm ready for that." Emma is eager to build relationships with UHY clients - to add her perspective and apply her experience to their unique situations. She's also looking forward to continuing the close working relationships she has with RL Benjamin clients in this next chapter of her career.

Managing Director Sungesh Singh is delighted to have Emma on board. "Emma is extremely astute at problem solving to help clients achieve the best possible outcomes," he says. "She inspires a high degree of loyalty and trust and we know she will be a wonderful asset to the UHY team - the future is in good hands!"

Emma prides herself on being a great communicator and loves being able to put her clients' minds at ease. She explains: "For a lot of people, tax and the IRD can be the most terrifying things. I really enjoy solving complex problems and demystifying them into manageable pieces. If I can reduce stress levels, then my clients can get on with doing what they do best."

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Member Profiles

We profile **Members** of the Rosebank Business Association

Auckland Zoo

'bringing people together to build a future for wildlife'

Auckland Zoo, a wildlife conservation organisation and one of the world's leading modern zoos, is currently celebrating its centenary with the local and wider community.

To mark its 100th, with the support of Barfoot & Thompson, the Auckland Zoo has created an exhibition that offers visitors a rich and fun interactive journey into the Zoo's past, present and future named '100 years - A century of wildlife at Auckland Zoo'. This is on now, and free to all visitors until 17th July.

There is also a book published on the fascinating and colourful history named, 'Auckland Zoo - 100 Years, 100 Stories', and a new wildlife documentary series about Auckland Zoo which is streaming on threenow.co.nz

Since opening on 16 December 1922 as a mainly treeless menagerie, the now stunning green oasis in Western Springs has been completely transformed - physically, philosophically, and operationally. It is passionately committed to excellence in animal care and welfare, enhancing wellbeing, conserving wildlife in the wild and nurturing the community's lifelong connection with nature. This extends to science, learning, training, and in evolving the Zoo sustainably.

Today, visitors can experience this transformation in many ways, including in the immersive landscape habitats created for wildlife in the Zoo's care which number more than 2,200 animals and 137 different species. Habitats like Te Wao Nui (Aotearoa New Zealand

Track) and the recently completed Southeast Asia Jungle Track are great examples that also link to the Zoo's mahi in actively conserving threatened wildlife throughout Aotearoa and around the world.

"Our transition is thanks to the many former visionary leaders, the passion, skills, and dedication of so many past and present Zoo staff and volunteers, and our amazing community, sponsors, supporters, and conservation partners," says Auckland Zoo director, Kevin Buley. "It is also primarily because of the incredible ongoing support and trust of Auckland Council and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited that we are here today realising our mission 'to bring people together to build a future for wildlife'."



Auckland Zoo
Phone: (09) 360 3805
<https://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz>



KPL Distribution

All about Impulse

KPL Distribution started 13 years ago in 2010 under the name Kiwipong by Tim Kerr and Nick Borland. Kiwipong was a brand they designed from the get-go, with products initially made in New Zealand, however when their supplier could not provide, they then started to import products from China and the USA.

Kiwipong as a brand has really become a mainstay of the New Zealand liquor store market supported by the massive Kiwipong World Series event that Tim and Nick ran, with prize money of \$10,000 for the winning team! Over the last five years, they have expanded their range to focus on both great New Zealand impulse brands and unique overseas impulse brands mainly in the snack section but also in the barware and hardware sections. Currently working with brands such as Clipper, Zippo, and Moderna Hardware.

KPL Distribution is based out of Avondale, Auckland, and has a 600sq distribution centre. Griffin's were recently added to their portfolio which is a massive opportunity for them to work with one of New Zealand's biggest and best snack businesses.

With a new sales and customer care team to support the Griffin's contract, they have now grown into a team of 14 and are looking forward to connecting with other businesses in the Rosebank area.

KPL Distribution
Email Ronnie Barnett: orders@kpldistribution.co.nz
Phone: 0800 7664 5494
Website: www.kpldistribution.co.nz

Business Nuts & Bolts

Business to Business advice from **RBA Members & Partners**



Kate de Lautour
The Icehouse

The Four Circles - The Business

The four circles of 'You', 'You In The Business', 'The Business' and 'You In The Community' interconnect and overlap and, when in harmony, make running a business more stimulating, life-enhancing and rewarding – often in ways that go beyond financial profit.

The Business circle, as defined in 'Gearing Up, Leading your Kiwi business into the future' by Darl Kolb, David Irving, Deb Shepherd and Chris Woods, Auckland University Press, 2020, includes 'such things as its purpose, values, competitive advantage, core competence, strategy, business model, and assets and liabilities. A business plan that describes the current state of the business and what it expects to achieve in the future should capture these aspects of 'Your Business'.'

All four elements of the circle are morphing rapidly in today's business landscape, particularly around you and your place in the community, but perhaps none more so than 'The Business' itself, where the ever-evolving technology landscape, for example, requires businesses to adapt and adopt and be flexible to stay relevant, while the shortage of skilled labour, supply chain disruption, material and transportation costs and more, are placing significant pressure on owners.

Throw in global economic uncertainty and current geopolitical events, and these are difficult times for owners.

"The macro environment is changing. Think about what's happening in terms of opportunities with technology, or labour market challenges, for example. We've got deep demographic shifts worldwide, which will alter the look of our labour force in the future," says Deb Shepherd, co-author of Gearing Up and

Changing Gears, and a key figure in the development, design and delivery of The Icehouse programmes, including the Owner Manager Programme, since 2001.

"The business of tomorrow, and we don't know whether tomorrow's a year from now or three or five years, will have to look and be different. It comes back to viewing the business through a slightly different lens, a future-oriented lens which encourages us all to look up and out from today's business and over the next horizon."

Owners need to continually ask themselves what are the things that can be improved?

By developing a solid foundation, businesses are better equipped to respond to changes in the market and adapt to new challenges. In short, businesses can't afford to stand still. A step in the right direction is dismantling that notion of - 'Well, this is how we've always done it - so this is how we will always do it.'

Some things don't change - a successful business has a well-defined vision, a mission, and a solid strategy to achieve its goals, but the notion of constantly reviewing what's come before and what's happening next, resetting and refreshing your thinking, is important.

CEO of Red Badge Group and an OMP alumni, Ben Wooding's thoughts encapsulate what's going on in 'The Business' today. "We've had this steep growth curve, which we're now trying to get on top of internally, and really set ourselves up with strong systems and processes so that we can then look to grow again.

"At the moment, we're exploring what that looks like. Do we just stay in New Zealand? Do we look overseas? Do we look at acquisitions? And I think, at the moment, the economy and that outlook are going to play a big part -so we're keeping a close eye on what's happening in that space."

The Four Circles can guide owner managers to get clarity and confidence around critical next steps, establish where they want the business to be in the near and not-so-near future, and ultimately, help bring them closer to the success they deserve.

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“Empty chairs are not empty in reality; memories always sit there”



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Our People in Focus



Scott Carter
Matrix Security

While technological advances have led to robust security capabilities and options, nothing yet quite compares to a human security presence.

A security guard, also known as static guard, is an independent security resource that ensures your staff, the public and site are protected. Often, you will see guards outside large industrial, commercial or construction sites, but they're also useful for corporate events and private functions,

where host responsibility includes welfare and authorised attendance.

Patrols (mobile, foot, or a combination of both) give business owners peace of mind knowing their businesses are secure. Setting an alarm and locking your doors only goes so far. Regular and randomised patrols of your site, internally or externally, help deter opportunistic intruders and build familiarity – our security officers will begin to understand who and what is normal to see, so they can spot issues early.

Duties can be varied. Undertaking regular foot patrols around large sites, checking high risk areas, logging in staff or vehicles coming onto site out of hours, and even providing first aid. Each site is different, and we collaborate with business owners to develop and document a plan as it relates to each environment.

The role of a security officer can be challenging and requires critical thinking. There are many stories of our officers going over and above the standard job description to protect members of the community, and this is one of them.

Recently, a member of the public who wants to remain

anonymous (we will call him Barry) contacted us to express his immense gratitude for Patrick, whose heroic actions Barry described as having “almost certainly saved my life”.

Barry was on his way to Shorecare to take care of a minor injury he sustained while moving house.

He arrived at Smales Farm to visit Shorecare but could not locate the building. He saw a Matrix Security officer in a vehicle nearby and pulled over into a car park with the intention of asking him for directions.

Before Barry could get out of his vehicle, he saw Patrick getting into his patrol car about to leave. Barry’s car was stationary. In his haste, he exited his vehicle and had one foot on the ground when he realised he had not put the car into neutral nor applied the handbrake.

The car moved forward on an angle grazing the next car and eventually squashed him between his door-frame and his door. The vehicle continued to move forward and in Barry’s words, “I thought my number was up as it got tighter and tighter.”

Patrick had the presence of mind to observe what was happening and to react quickly. He jumped into the passenger door, getting the vehicle into neutral and then into reverse to release Barry.

He assisted Barry to the rear of the Matrix Vehicle to recover. Barry did not think he had been injured but noted that he was obviously in shock as he later discovered he had a cracked rib, sore neck and shoulder.

Barry wanted to commend the actions of Patrick who has been with Matrix Security Group since 2018.

If you are interested in learning more, contact one of our experienced security consultants on 09 525 8532.

If you think you might have what it takes to become a security officer, please apply at <https://www.matrixsecurity.co.nz/career/job-applications/>.



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Jennifer Wyatt Sargent
Human Resources Consultant

More Changes to Think About in 2023

In 2022 I attended a seminar by Paul Jarvie of the Employers and Manufacturers Association. "Employment Challenges and Changes" was an interesting presentation, but it was the last few slides that grabbed everyone's attention. As the meeting broke up, I asked a few people what they thought and was told "that's scary," "bloody scary," "frightening."

The slides seemed innocuous, but when they were grouped together the message became frighteningly clear. Some salient points are that NZ has:

- Very low unemployment.
- Very low immigration.
- A largely unskilled workforce.
- An ageing population.
- Inflation/stagnation.
- Staff absences due to COVID/flu.
- Supply chain hurdles.
- Rising interest rates.
- Commodity price increases.

I know my clients have been dealing with most of these issues for months and with some of them for a couple of years. But then add:

- The number of people aged 65 years or older (65+) living in NZ is likely to hit 1 million by 2028 (Statistics NZ).
- Our fertility rate has reduced to around 1.65, which means we cannot sustain a natural population growth rate, so our supply of labour will have to be augmented by recruiting outside of NZ.
- More people are aged over 55 years than are aged under 15 years (Statistics NZ).
- Our older population is becoming a larger workforce and consumer market. Employers and businesses need to understand the key role older people will play as both consumers and workers.
In 2011, older people spent \$14 billion on goods and services.
In 2031, older people are expected to spend \$39 billion on goods and services.
Based on 2013 dollars. (MSD - "Business of Ageing")

And consider:

- In 2015, 21% of people aged 65+ were in some form of

paid employment (about 138,000 people).

- In 2031, 31% of people aged 65+ are expected to be in some form of paid employment (about 350,000 people).
- But only 14 to 18% of employers are actively planning for an ageing workforce.
Only 25% of businesses have a policy on ageing.
Importantly, 44% indicate they will not do anything in this space.
- There is a huge worker/skills shortage so businesses will need older workers.
 - o A person in the workforce is considered to be "old" at around 55 to 57 years.
 - o A person applying for a job is considered to be "old" when around 48 years old.
- Currently NZ has around four employed persons per retiree, forecast to move to two workers per retiree.
- Many 65+ people choose to work on because:
 - o They need income to service debt (mortgages), and to remain care givers.
 - o They want the social interactions of work.
 - o They have more to give and contribute.
 - o Work gets them out of the house.
 - o Many start their own businesses.

It has made me think. When I arrived in NZ, employment was remarkably stable. Employees could be reasonably confident that if they turned up to work and did what was expected of them, then their jobs were safe. Indeed, a few years later, when employers decided to implement the "lean and mean" structures espoused by business consultants (mainly from America, if I remember rightly), I worked with many devastated workers who were made redundant after 20, 30, even 40 years with the same employer. It was heart-breaking work, and I wasn't at all surprised that the strong social contract that had previously existed between employers and employees was destroyed. Even today, some 25 years later, it is clear that few workers trust their employers and, consequently, hold little loyalty towards them (hence the Great Resignation, which I have written about fairly recently).

Sometimes I despair of the human race - do we ever learn from history? Not as far as I can see. For example, NZ's unemployment rate of 7.3% for the September 2012 quarter was the highest for 13 years. Yet organisations were still complaining about the difficulty of finding quality candidates - a situation that seemed counterintuitive at the time but is an accepted fact in 2023. Further, some old notes of mine suggest we were experiencing much the same problem back in 2002. Ira Wolfe, a US recruitment specialist, said then he believed labour shortages would not blow over, and that they had no industry or geographic boundaries. He put this down to several factors: continuous growth in economies since the early 1990s therefore higher demand for skilled labour; falling birth rates; a higher percentage of older workers combined with longer life expectancy; also fewer working adults as a percentage of total population. Sound familiar?

Given the sudden and unexpected value of older workers - a group of people who might well save some NZ businesses from going under during the next few years - a couple of future articles will cover the pros and cons of employing older workers.



Amanda Morgan
Henderson Reeves

How to (really) save money on a Contracting Out Agreement

There are two ways to save money on a contracting out agreement. The first is to depart as little as possible from the provisions of the Act - understand what you actually want to achieve, and limit the agreement to just achieving that.

The closer your sharing regime is to what the law would do, the less work needed on the agreement.

The second is to have your lawyer do a proper job of it. The true cost of a bad agreement is significant. An agreement is only fit for purpose if your lawyer is clear on your purpose, and creates an agreement that will be robust enough to be enforced later on. Done properly, this is not a document that can be signed off at the first meeting.

Keeping it simple

Why do you want a contracting out agreement?

To save money on an agreement, just get the agreement you need. If you are a new couple buying a home and want to protect one person's larger deposit, get an agreement that just does that. The more layers you want to add to it (e.g. to keep anything you earn or buy separate, not to share increases in each other's separate assets), the more work both lawyers have to do to protect the agreement from future challenge. The more work a lawyer has to do, the more expensive the agreement.

Sometimes a more complicated agreement is what you need, however, for example to future proof and make sure it continues to be fair as the relationship progresses. You may have some assets you want to ring fence and others in respect of which you will share capital growth. Or your lawyer may recommend a more complicated agreement as necessary to ensure it is still enforceable when you need it to be.

Get a lawyer who does a good job of it

Beware a generic agreement. Some lawyers are happy to send out one-size-fits-all standard agreements in which the only personal information is the names and the list of assets in the back. However an agreement that will work well for an older couple, at the end of their careers, with assets and children that predate the relationship will not be sufficient for the issues facing a young couple just starting out. A non-personalised agreement creates risk for you in the future, and (if the other lawyer is doing their job) additional work for the other lawyer to fix it up.

If some years down the track the agreement is successfully challenged, the whole agreement goes - and the parties' positions revert to where they would have been if there had never been an agreement.

What to expect: what does doing a "good job" look like?

A contracting out agreement must meet the requirements of section 21 of the Property (Relationships) Act 1976 (the Act) to be enforceable. The agreement is in writing, signed by both parties, after independent legal advice - and each lawyer must certify that the party has had the effects and implications of the agreement explained to them.

Those requirements are for good reason. A contracting out agreement can have far reaching (and sometimes unintended) effects.

Your lawyer will ask you about your life, relationship and assets because the effect of an agreement will differ depending on those things.

Be prepared for your lawyer to advise you to ask for some changes to make it fairer (and more durable) or to better achieve your purpose. A review clause is not enough to future proof an agreement!

A well thought out agreement will cost both parties less (in the long run), and may even improve your relationship.

When is an agreement inadequate?

An agreement is at risk of challenge if:

It is seriously unfair i.e. it would cause "serious injustice" to enforce it (section 21J). That can be because it was unfair from the beginning or because it became unfair over time.

The formalities of signing were not met (section 21F). One key requirement is that the parties have had independent advice, and each lawyer has explained the effects and implications of the agreement. A lawyer that has not done their job properly has not satisfied that requirement.

It isn't enforceable as a contract e.g. because of duress (a particular sort of pressure) or undue influence, and where there has been a sufficient mistake or misrepresentation (s21G).

If you're interested, listen to the episode of our podcast Divorce Café on contracting out agreements - available now through www.hendersonreeves.co.nz, on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Youtube!

You can also call us for advice on your own situation and whether you need a contracting out agreement. Call and speak to Amanda, Taina or Shelley or one of the relationship property team on 09 430 4350.



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Mike Hannan
Owner - Spark Business Hub

IT Health & Security Check: Stop Little Niggles from Becoming Big Risks

Technology: no matter your industry, it can take the experience and acumen of a business and enhance it, driving up productivity and efficiency. As the owner of the local Spark Business Hub, I see two types of reactions from clients when it comes to their tech:

Why didn't I do this earlier? when new technology is implemented successfully...

... and What the hell is happening? when tech isn't working.

We all need a check-up from time to time, and the IT function of your business is no exception. Understanding where your tech is at versus where it needs to be is critical for any business leader, and the start of a new financial year is a great time to plan.

To support our clients, we've worked with IT360 to develop an IT Health & Security Check.

An IT Health Check is like an annual check-up for your technology. We make sure everything is running smoothly



and identify any potential issues - before they become major problems. Using a combination of automated tools and manual assessments, including onsite visits, we assess the current state of your IT environment, identify areas for improvement or risk, and create a roadmap for future enhancements. Our IT engineers cover several key areas, such as network infrastructure, security, data management, and your hardware and software inventory. When we're finished, you receive a summary document that is easy for anyone to digest (including the non-IT experts).

Once we've helped you to identify areas that need improvement, you can start creating a plan. This plan should prioritise the most critical issues and outline the steps needed to resolve them. From there, we recommend that you regularly schedule IT Health Checks - ideally at 12 to 18-month intervals - to ensure that your IT infrastructure remains in good health.

By conducting an IT Health Check, you can identify potential problems before they become major issues, increase the efficiency of your IT operations, and ensure that your IT environment is secure and protected. As a business owner, I genuinely believe it's the best \$250 you'll spend in 2023.

Whether you go on to work alongside us or your existing IT partner to deliver your outcomes, we'd love to give you that first, independent view of your IT health.

Why didn't I do this earlier? when new technology is implemented successfully...



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