

Issue 2

October 2025

PULSE



McDonald's Franchisees

New Members of NZ Business Connect:
"BE PART OF OUR COLOUR RUN ADVENTURE!"
Page 6

35th Year of Diwali

Event feature
Page 9

Jasper Osborne

Hunting for Good
Page 14

Vanessa Williams

Love the Centre
Page 15

The Voice of NZ Business Connect

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Editor's Note



Hello. This is the second edition of Pulse, the voice of the NZ Business Connect community.

Pulse talks business. This is the magazine for people that do. Every edition is the “editor’s choice” of the NZ Business Connect (NZBC) community; we showcase the best ideas, we talk to the experts, and we interview the people who are out there, making things happen right now.

In this edition, we’re thrilled to announce that Ricki Cotter has taken on the NZBC licence for Tauranga. Ricki joins a growing network of members who are bringing energy, expertise, and fresh ideas to our multi-ethnic business community. Alongside his appointment, we also celebrate our membership in the Waikato McDonald’s franchisees PJ and Pooja Goel and introduce our other newest members, reflecting the diversity, innovation, and ambition that make NZBC so vibrant.

Pulse is a serious, high-end business magazine aimed at the managers, owners, and operators who all make business happen. Each quarterly edition is designed to inspire, inform, and help you grow, with industry spotlights, profiles of leading figures, and insights into the trends shaping tomorrow.

In this edition, we explore how AI is being used to enhance networking, intelligently matchmake members, and foster meaningful connections. We also provide updates on our member portal and app development - tools designed to make collaboration, engagement, and growth seamless.

Pulse extends NZ Business Connect's philosophy of “going beyond the business card.” When you attend one of our events you put a face to a card, but with Pulse, you pin that face to a story. Storytelling is at the heart of real human connection, and that’s exactly what we aim to cultivate.

Social giving continues to be central and at the heart of the NZBC ethos. By supporting organisations such as the Waikato Women’s Refuge and the Graeme Dingle Foundation, we hope to build not just a thriving business network, but a stronger, more connected nation.

The vision of NZBC revolves around providing unmatched value through tailored networking opportunities, premium educational resources, and strategic connections.” Pulse embodies this vision, and we hope you feel it too.

A big thank you to the ongoing unequivocal support of our NZBC Board Chairman Jujhar Randhawa and fellow Board members Issac Whatnall and Rory McKenzie.

Here’s to the people that do.
Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phillip Quay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PULSE: The Voice of NZ Business Connect

BUT WHO IS NZ BUSINESS CONNECT?

NZ Business Connect is a New Zealand-based business networking platform designed to bring professionals, entrepreneurs, and business owners together through meaningful connections, collaboration, and shared opportunities. Established in 2021 by founder Phillip Quay, the organisation was created in response to a growing need for more authentic and effective ways to network in a rapidly changing business environment.

At its core, NZ Business Connect is a technology-driven community focused on building relationships that go beyond traditional networking. Rather than simply exchanging contacts, it aims to foster genuine connections that lead to real business growth, strategic partnerships, long-term success and friendships.

One of the defining features of NZ Business Connect is its strong emphasis on community and contribution.

Through its focus on social giving, the organisation promotes a culture where members actively look for ways to add value, whether that is through referrals, shared expertise, or supporting charitable initiatives. This creates a network built on trust, reciprocity, and genuine intent, rather than transactional interactions.

NZ Business Connect positions itself as more than just a networking group. It is a platform for growth, innovation, and connection, bringing together a diverse range of industries and professionals who are looking to take the next step in their business journey. By combining modern technology with a people-first approach and a clear commitment to social giving, it continues to evolve as a hub for collaboration and opportunity across New Zealand.



Contents

- 06.** Giving Back with Purpose and Heart
- 09.** Celebrating 35 Years of Waikato Diwali Mela
- 13.** Ricki Cotter for NZ Business Connect
- 14.** Hunting for Good
- 15.** Love Our Centre
- 16.** Welcome to the New Mayor of Hamilton
- 17.** The Future of Business Engagement
- 18.** Your Home Away from Home in Napier
- 20.** Foley Douglas & NZ Business Connect
- 25.** A.I and Soil Science
- 26.** Q & A with Tarun Kumar
- 28.** SHARED Workspaces Hamilton
- 30.** Health & Wellness Column
- 36.** New Member Spotlights



18 September 2025

PhillipQuay
NZ Business Connect

Via email: phillip@nzbusinessconnect.co.nz

Kia ora Phillip

As I stand down as Mayor of Hamilton in October, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for the work you do, and the work we do together, to strengthen and support our city.

It is only through partnership that we create a vibrant city and lay the groundwork for our city's future. I value having worked with you, the wider community, my council colleagues and other key partners. Thank you especially for your support of the business community and for the great networking events.

I am proud of what we have achieved despite the challenging and fast changing time that we have faced.

After 24 years in local government, with the last 6 years serving as Mayor, I feel the time is right for me to step away and allow new leaders to emerge. I have no regrets and will hold warm memories of the people, projects and places in this city that I love to call home.

It has been an honour serving as your Mayor of Hamilton and a pleasure working with you. Thank you for your contribution to our city and my best wishes for the future.

Kia ora me nga mihi pai (*thankyou and best wishes*)

Paula Southgate
Mayor of Hamilton Kirikiriroa

Franchisee | McDonald's Frankton & Centre Place Joins NZ Business Connect: Giving Back with Purpose and Heart

BY POOJA GOEL & NZ BUSINESS CONNECT

Franchisee | McDonald's Frankton & Centre Place in Hamilton has proudly joined NZ Business Connect, a local networking group that champions collaboration, social giving, and community support. This membership reflects their commitment not just to business success, but to fostering meaningful connections with other local companies and contributing positively to the Waikato community. Through this partnership, McDonald's Frankton & Centre Place strengthens ties with like-minded organisations, sharing ideas, supporting initiatives, and helping create a culture of giving back.

One exciting way they are bringing this commitment to life is through the upcoming Frankton McDonald's Colour Run/Walk. Scheduled for 15 February 2026 at Innes Common, Hamilton Lake, the event will raise vital funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) New Zealand. Participants can expect a fun and colourful experience with colour stations, music, entertainment stalls, food trucks, an MC, and family-friendly activities. The Colour Run/Walk is more than a fundraiser; it is a celebration of health, community, and unity.

This is also a chance for local businesses to get involved and make a visible difference. Sponsorship opportunities are available at a variety of levels, giving organisations the chance to showcase their brand while directly supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities. From having your logo featured on event materials to engaging with thousands of participants on the day, sponsorship is a powerful way to give back to the community while building meaningful connections.



McDonald's Frankton and Centre Place Franchise Owner Pj Goel

Businesses interested in partnering with this vibrant and impactful event can learn more at HamiltonColourRun.co.nz, download the "Sponsor Info Pack," and register their interest.

McDonald's has a long-standing partnership with RMHC New Zealand, which provides free accommodation and support to families with children in hospital.

"The Colour Run/Walk is more than a fundraiser; it is a celebration of health, community, and togetherness."

In 2024, RMHC NZ delivered 3,822 nights of accommodation at a cost of \$894,348 through its Houses, Family Rooms, and Retreats to Waikato families. These spaces offer more than a place to sleep. They provide comfort, community, and relief to families whose child is in the hospital with a serious illness navigating difficult times.

As RMHC's founding mission partner, McDonald's plays a vital role in this mission of care and compassion. Each year, more than \$2 million is raised nationally through the combined efforts of franchisees, crew, and customers. Every Happy Meal, donation box, and community events help fuel this network of support for families in need. Each year, over 4400 families stay free of charge at Ronald McDonald Houses and Family Rooms across the country, saving them over \$10 million in accommodation costs and providing meals and emotional support.

Locally, McDonald's Frankton & Centre Place also sponsor school programmes and sports teams, embedding themselves in grassroots initiatives that uplift the Waikato.

Franchisee | McDonald's Frankton & Centre Place is more than just a restaurant. It is a local champion, serving families, futures, and the community with genuine purpose and heart.

“Through connection and social giving, McDonald's Frankton & Centre Place are helping shape a stronger Waikato community.”



McDonald's Frankton and Centre Place Franchise Owners Pj (right) and Pooja Goel

FRANKTON MCDONALD'S COLOUR RUN / WALK

Save the date!

 15 10AM SUNDAY
15 FEB 2026

 INNES COMMON
HAMILTON LAKE
just under 4km!

JOIN US FOR A FUN RUN (OR WALK!)



BUY TICKETS AT
HamiltonColourRun.co.nz

ALL NET PROCEEDS GO TO RMHC® NZ



Celebrating Diwali: Light Over Darkness in the Waikato for 35 Years

BY CAMERON COETZEE

October in New Zealand marks longer evenings and warmer days, but for the Indian community, it also brings one of the most significant festivals of the year: Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

To learn more, we spoke with Jujhar Singh, Chairman of NZ Business Connect, who has been instrumental in bringing Diwali celebrations to life in the Waikato.

“Diwali is like Christmas for Indians,” Singh explains. “It’s one of the biggest festivals, not only culturally but also religiously. At its core, Diwali represents the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.” Families traditionally light clay lamps, decorate their homes, enjoy sweets, and gather for prayers and fireworks. “The whole city lights up, it’s a festive atmosphere for weeks,” Singh says.

Singh fondly recalls the Diwali traditions of his childhood in India: preparing homes for visitors, decorating with lamps, and sharing meals with family and friends. Here in New Zealand, those traditions continue, now with an added local twist. “When we introduced fireworks at Lake Rotoroa, people were thrilled. They told us, ‘That’s what we were missing for years.’ It brought the energy back.”

Food remains at the heart of Diwali, from sweet shop delicacies to home-cooked favourites. Singh admits with a grin, “I’ve got a sweet tooth, but on Diwali I really look forward to lamb biryani, my wife makes the best one.” Alongside celebration, giving back is also central. “Culturally and religiously, we believe in helping others. During Diwali, we make sure families in need can celebrate too.”



JUJHAR SINGH RANDHAWA

This year’s Waikato Diwali Festival will take place on Saturday, 18 October at Lake Rotoroa. The free community event promises cultural performances, authentic food stalls, and a dazzling fireworks display over the water. Attendance has soared in recent years, from 6,500 in its first year at the lake to more than 11,000 last year. “This year,” Singh says, “we’re expecting 15,000–16,000 people.”

For Singh, Diwali is more than just a festival. “It teaches us to stand up against wrong, to be responsible for others, and to carry light into the world. It’s not just about community, it’s about humanity.”

When: Saturday, 18th October 5:00pm
Where: Innes Common, Hamilton Lake
Free Entry | Food | Culture | Fireworks

Waikato Diwali Mela 2024



“Everyone is welcome to come along and experience the warmth, joy, and spirit of the Festival of Lights.”



Indus Lights the Way as Naming Rights Sponsor of the 2025 Waikato Diwali Mela In Hamilton

BY CAMERON COETZEE & INDUS

The 2025 Indus Waikato Diwali Mela in Hamilton will shine brighter than ever this year, thanks to Indus joining as the event's Naming Rights Sponsor.

The partnership creates a natural synergy between Indus's mission to simplify India's growth story and enable New Zealanders to invest seamlessly in India's markets, alongside the cultural vibrancy of one of Aotearoa's most anticipated celebrations, which will be held this year on Saturday, October 18 at Innes Common, Hamilton Lake.

Founded in Auckland, Indus is a financial technology company designed to make investing in India simple, transparent, and accessible for all New Zealanders. Through its digital platform, users can invest in hundreds of Indian mutual funds without the need for complex paperwork or hidden costs. With only a New Zealand driver's licence or passport, investors can begin exploring opportunities in one of the world's fastest-growing economies within minutes.

Security and trust are central to Indus's philosophy. Client funds are safely held in New Zealand with ASB, while Indian investments are custodied through DBS Bank. The company is a registered financial services provider in New Zealand and licensed in India by the Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI), ensuring a high level of confidence and compliance. Indus also champions transparency, offering clear fees, flexibility, and peace of mind for Kiwi investors seeking to connect with India's financial potential.



For Indus, sponsoring the Waikato Diwali Mela this year goes beyond visibility. It's a celebration of shared heritage and community spirit. Diwali's timeless message of light triumphing over darkness aligns perfectly with the company's mission to empower people through opportunity, education, and access.

The sponsorship also allows organisers to enhance the Mela experience, from vibrant performances and local food stalls to family activities and business showcases. Indus's support ensures the event continues to grow as a beacon of connection, diversity, and pride for the region.

As Indus co-founder and chief growth officer Vivek Parashar said: "This partnership is about more than a name. Diwali is about light, hope, and growth, values that reflect exactly what Indus stands for."

With Indus leading the way, the 2025 Indus Waikato Diwali Mela promises to be a celebration of unity, culture, and community brighter than ever before.

Lodge Real Estate: Lighting Up Hamilton, Inside & Out

BY AUNG THIHA




When you think of a real estate agency, you might picture houses, listings, open homes. But for Lodge Real Estate, it's never been just about property. It's about people, place, and purpose. That's why it's no surprise they're stepping up as Platinum Sponsors for the Indus Waikato Diwali Mela 2025, because at their core, Lodge is in the business of community building.

Lodge has called Hamilton home since 1969, growing to become one of the city's most trusted and recognisable agencies across Residential, Lifestyle, Commercial, Property Management and Body Corporate services. Their deep local roots give them not only market insight but also a heartfelt understanding of the people, cultures, and stories that make Waikato unique. With a team of over 140 property professionals and a strong commitment to excellence, Lodge continues to play a key role in shaping Hamilton's urban landscape and helping families find a place they can truly call home.

What sets Lodge apart is their enduring sense of social purpose. They regularly back schools, sports clubs, local charities, and cultural events, believing that the true measure of a city's health lies not just in square metres sold, but in lives uplifted.

Their sponsorship portfolio includes partnerships with the WBOP Magic netball team, the Fine Homes Tour, the Deep Dive Division, and a wide range of community projects that support wellbeing, sport, and the arts. Lodge also supports initiatives such as Daffodil Day and the Memory Meadow planting project showing that their heart for Hamilton extends far beyond the housing market.

Their sponsorship of Diwali is a perfect match. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is one of Hamilton's most beloved and unifying celebrations. It brings people together across cultures, generations, and communities to celebrate hope, light, and renewal. Lodge's support helps ensure everyone can experience it in full colour, joy, and connection.

This Diwali, as Hamilton's skies light up in celebration, Lodge Real Estate is proud to shine a light of their own, not just in property, but in partnership, inclusion, and belonging. 

Ricki Cotter Appointed as Tauranga Licensee for NZ Business Connect

BY PHILLIP QUAY

NZ Business Connect, one of New Zealand's fastest growing multi-ethnic community business networks, is excited to announce that Ricki Cotter, formerly our Regional Manager, has now become the licensee for Tauranga.

“This is a significant step forward, as Ricki takes on a more direct and empowered role in leading our community in Tauranga,” said NZ Business Connect CEO Phillip Quay, of Hamilton.

“Ricki has been a fixture in the Tauranga business scene for over 10 years and has been actively involved in networking and supporting the growth of NZ Business Connect. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role, having seen the organization evolve from its early stages to where it is today,” Quay said.


“This is a significant step forward for our multi-ethnic business community. Ricki's leadership will bring more direct support and resources to our local members,” Quay said.

“This means easier access to networking events, personalized assistance, and social giving initiatives. For new members, this is a fantastic opportunity to join a thriving community with strong local leadership and a wealth of experience and he will be creating great sponsorship opportunities for business owners as well,” he added.

We are confident that Rick's passion and expertise will drive growth and create new opportunities for everyone involved.

If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a licensee in their region, please have them reach out to info@NZBusinessConnect.co.nz.

NZ Business Connect has its origins in Hamilton where it now hosts capacity sponsored events and partnerships with the likes of ASB Bank and 2 Degrees with one of its most recently signed up members including the McDonalds franchisee for Centre Place and Frankton, PJ and Pooja Goel.

NZ Business Connect social giving philosophy sees it support the likes of Waikato Women's Refuge (Hamilton) and the Graeme Dingle Foundation (Tauranga). 



RICKI COTTER

Stoney Creek Hunt For Good - Giving Back with Jasper Osborne

BY ANGUS GOODWIN




Jasper Osborne, the driving force behind Hunt for Good, has found a way to connect his love for the outdoors with his desire to give back to the community. Based in Tauranga, Osborne grew up hunting in the Central North Island alongside his father and relatives, developing a deep appreciation for both the land and the skills required to manage it. Now raising his own children, he has passed those values on.

The spark for Hunt for Good came from a simple observation: culling deer is necessary to protect farmland and native ecosystems, but often the resulting meat goes unused. At the same time, food banks and community groups were struggling to source nutritious, high-quality protein for families in need. Osborne recognised these two challenges and formed Hunt for Good as a not-for-profit project.

Working with volunteer hunters, landowners, local butchers and businesses, the team harvests wild venison and donates it to food banks, kura, and community kitchens. In one early initiative, over 150 kilograms of venison were supplied to the Tauranga Community Foodbank.

More recently, the team produced over 1,000 kilograms of mince. Beyond providing food, the project also delivers environmental benefits. Reducing deer numbers eases grazing pressure, protects biodiversity, and helps restore balance to the ecosystems where they roam. Osborne often highlights that Hunt for Good is about more than hunting; it's about respecting the resource, ensuring nothing goes to waste, and supporting whānau with healthy kai.

His leadership has been widely recognised. In 2025, he was named Volunteer of the Year at the Volunteer Star Awards, a reflection of the many hours he and his volunteers dedicate to the cause. The initiative now reaches multiple regions across the North Island, from Bay of Plenty to Hawke's Bay and Manawatū.

For Osborne, the success of Hunt for Good is proof of what can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose. By blending environmental stewardship with community care, he has created a model that transforms hunting into hope and support for those who need it most. 

Central City: More Than Meets the Eye

Did you know Hamilton's central city has quietly transformed into a hub of experiences rather than just a place for shopping and business?

BY VANESSA WILLIAMS

Like many CBDs around the world, we've evolved into what urban planners now call "Central Experience Districts" and with school holidays approaching, it's worth knowing what's actually on offer.

If you haven't been into town with the kids lately, you might be surprised. The Waikato Museum runs hands-on holiday workshops where kids can make everything from puppets to paintings, while next door at Exscite, the interactive science displays keep curious minds engaged for hours. No need to pre-book for most exhibits, just show up.

For movie buffs, the Lido offers that boutique cinema experience with films you won't always find at the multiplexes along with mainstream movies, while Metro by HOYTS delivers the blockbuster experience with those recliners that make even parents want to stay for the credits! Both theatres typically have holiday specials worth checking out. And don't forget the community theatres; Clarence Street Theatre which has the fabulous Circus of Illusion Magic Show and The Meteor showing The Magic of Oz.

Did you know you can learn to make candles in town? Wix's Lane Co runs casual workshops where you'll create custom scents and take home two candles, something different from the usual holiday activities. Similarly, Sip & Sew offers drop-in sessions where you can work on craft projects with materials, machines, and advice on hand.




SIP & SEW

For letting off steam, Bowl & Social combines bowling with pizza, a winning combination! Lilliputt offer experiences a plenty with mini-golf, laser tag and VR games, while Timezone remains a reliable option for arcade games. Card Merchant and Game Centre offer spaces for everything from casual board games to more organised trading card sessions.

If you're looking for something that gets everyone working together, both Confinement and Escapist run escape rooms that challenge families to solve puzzles within a time limit and for pure physical activity, Running Grid offers indoor courses that will tire out even the most energetic kids.

The Central Library is worth a mention too, beyond books, their makerspace and holiday programmes offer tech and craft activities that put creativity on show.

Most of these spots are within walking distance of each other and with hospitality close by it is easy to make a day of it!

Want more detail, the lovethecentre.co.nz website keeps a current calendar of school holiday activities and special events throughout the central city. 



The Waikato Society of Arts also runs small art classes if your kids (or you) want to try something creative.

Tim Macindoe The New Hamilton Mayor

BY PHILLIP QUAY

Former MP and current Hamilton City Councillor Tim Macindoe, an avid supporter of NZ Business Connect, has been elected the new Hamilton Mayor.

During his Mayoral campaign Macindoe had told NZ Business Connect that businesses across the Waikato region were still doing it tough.

"It's worrying to see many empty premises in our Hamilton CBD, and low sales figures in several industries, despite steady population growth and buoyancy in other areas," Macindoe said.

"That's why Hamilton City Council must cut our spending and operate more efficiently to lower the burden on our ratepayers. Commercial rates are a particular challenge for many," he said.

"It's critically important that we unlock the bureaucratic obstacles and delays that are holding back the new housing and industrial development we need in NZ's fastest-growing city. Developers are deserting Hamilton as a consequence. We must entice them back and get the houses and infrastructure we need going again," he added.


"We need to get on top of some of the antisocial behaviour making our inner city less appealing. I'm advocating for a return of two hours free parking in the CBD to try to encourage more customers back into town and give our city retailers and hospitality providers a boost," Macindoe told voters in his candidacy for Mayor.

Macindoe attended several NZ Business Connect member events during his election campaign.

Macindoe also topped the voting list in the Hamilton east ward. Because he will become mayor, the six successful candidates in the queue behind him will become councillors for the east ward.

They are Rachel Karalus, Andrew Bydder, Anna Casey-Cox, Leo Liu, Jamie Strange and Sue Moroney.

Another Mayoral contender, Sarah Thomson, was the top-ranked councillor in the west ward, followed by Geoff Taylor, Graeme Mead, Angela O'Leary, Mesh MacDonald, and Emma Pike. Meanwhile, Hamiltonians have also narrowly voted to keep the Kirikiriroa Māori ward, by 13,600 votes to 13,010.

Huata was one of two successful candidates in that ward, with Robbie Neha the other. 



NEW HAMILTON MAYOR TIM MACINDOE



Augmented Reality: The Future of Business Engagement


BY PHONG MAI CHI

Augmented Reality (AR) is emerging as a transformative tool for businesses, offering immersive ways to engage customers and streamline operations. Unlike Virtual Reality (VR), which requires headsets and closed environments, AR overlays digital content on the real world, making it more accessible, convenient, and practical. Recent phenomena such as Pokémon GO have popularised the AR as a concept and set a stepping stone for the emerging technology into the world of businesses.

In Sales, AR provides interactive product previews that allow customers to visualise items in their environment before purchasing. Furniture retailers like IKEA already use AR apps to reduce purchase uncertainty and returns. Brands can also integrate AR into packaging, enabling consumers to scan a label for recipes, tutorials, or promotional games, extending engagement beyond the shelf. Combined with AI tools such as Synthesia AI, businesses can go a step further: pairing interactive 3D product models with AI-generated video explainers that highlight features or benefits. This dual approach enhances user engagement, boosts online visibility, and strengthens consumer trust.

In Supply Chains, AR is proving valuable for training, safety, and logistics. Smart glasses can guide warehouse staff with visual cues for picking and packing, improving accuracy and efficiency. AR can also support remote assistance, allowing experts to overlay instructions in real time for field workers. When paired with Synthesia, training modules become even more powerful. AI avatars can deliver standardised video instructions embedded within AR workflows, ensuring clarity and consistency across multiple sites.

From a digital marketing perspective, AR also opens new SEO opportunities. Interactive AR content can increase session durations, lower bounce rates, and rank in emerging categories of search results. Local businesses, meanwhile, can leverage AR-enhanced maps and listings to attract nearby customers.

Ultimately, by combining the immersive engagement of AR with the scalability of AI tools like Synthesia, businesses can modernise sales strategies, optimise supply chain processes, and stay competitive in an increasingly digital marketplace. 

Ace High Motor Inn: Your Home Away From Home in Napier

REVIEW BY PHILLIP QUAY



No matter what time of the year the Hawke's Bay is a great place to visit whether it be for wine, major events or its renowned art-deco architecture.

It is also renowned for its quality accommodation and hospitality industry.

During my recent visits to the region I have stayed at Ace High Motor Inn in Napier where hosts Frank and Maureen make you feel not only welcome as a guest but more like being one of the family.

The couple have plenty of experience in the motel sector and they know how important it is to treat guest well and attend to their every need.

One of the most important aspects of any motel to me is its cleanliness and on that basis Ace High Motor is second to none. The whole room - from the toilet and shower to the lounge and rest of the apartment - are sparkling clean and well maintained.

There are full cooking facilities in all but three of the motel's 16 units.

Several of the larger units can sleep up to six guests making the motel ideal for families as well as school and sports teams.

Ace High Motor Inn also ranks highly on location. is suited for business or family and is located central to the greater Napier area. It is situated halfway between Napier city and the Taradale shopping centre and are approximately 5 minutes drive to Napier's city centre and most of its attractions. Cycles and BBQ's are also available.

One of its important points of difference to other motels is that is pet-friendly.


"We not only make guests feel super welcome but also their beloved pets and this is an important point of difference for our motel and one that sees guests coming back," Frank says.

To add to the motel's facilities there is an outdoor swimming pool while there are spa pools featured in the wheelchair access units.

The showers have great water pressure and it is nice to see the complimentary milk provided in glass bottles not those annoying pods which are very frustrating when it comes to opening them.

When it comes to knowledge of the Hawke's Bay area it pays to ask the hosts. They are great judges when it comes to recommending places to eat or places or activities to visit for all age groups.

Taxis are close at hand and the main bus link to the city is one minute's walk from Ace High Motor Inn.

Anderson's Park is 2 minutes drive down the road where there are spacious picnic areas, a large playground and duck ponds. 

Property highlights:

Outdoor pool

Hot Tub

Free Wi-fi

Kitchenette

Children's playground

Golf course (within 3km)

Address:

399 Kennedy Rd, Napier

Free phone 0800 270 361

Telephone: (06) 843 3109

Email: info@acehigh.co.nz

Website: www.acehigh.co.nz

"We not only make guests feel super welcome but also their beloved pets and this is an important point of difference for our motel and one that sees guests coming back"



Foley Douglas and NZ Business Connect Showcase AI and Community Growth

BY CAMERON COETZEE



NZ BUSINESS CONNECT PHILLIP QUAY, FOLEY DOUGLAS ISAAC WHATNALL, JAMIE MOORE, FOLEY DOUGLAS SAM DOUGLAS

The latest NZ Business Connect (NZBC) event brought together local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community members for an evening of networking, knowledge-sharing, and future-focused discussion. Hosted with the support of sponsors Foley Douglas, the event highlighted both the growth of the NZBC network and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in modern business.

Keynote speaker Jamie Moore from Mosaic Partners, a seasoned technology entrepreneur with over 20 years of experience, captivated the audience with an engaging presentation on the practical uses of AI. From drafting documents and summarising lengthy reports to generating realistic images and streamlining workflows, Jamie demonstrated how AI is reshaping industries and saving professionals valuable time. He also stressed the importance of using AI responsibly, treating it as a powerful tool that must be applied with safeguards, accuracy checks, and human judgment.

The presentation resonated strongly with attendees, many of whom are already experimenting with AI in their businesses. Jamie encouraged companies to establish clear AI policies, choose secure platforms, and start small with internal use cases such as documentation or drafting before scaling to client-facing applications. “AI won’t replace people,” he noted, “but people using AI effectively will have the advantage.”

Alongside the keynote, the event underscored NZBC’s commitment to fostering meaningful connections between local businesses. New members shared their stories of joining the network, often citing the group’s energy, sense of community, and focus on collaboration as key drawcards. Sponsors echoed this sentiment, highlighting the value of supporting such events.

“AI won’t replace people, but people using AI effectively will have the advantage.”

Senior Associate Issac Whatnall from Foley Douglas reflected: “Being a sponsor of the NZBC AI event was a fantastic experience for Foley Douglas. As the second event we’ve hosted, it reinforced for us how valuable these occasions are in bringing the Waikato business community together. It allowed us to connect with a broad cross-section of members, showcase who we are, and contribute to an important conversation about technology and its place in our profession.

What we value most about NZBC is its mix of professionalism and genuine community spirit. Supporting an event like this not only aligned with our values but also gave us the chance to deepen our relationships with members, both familiar faces and new contacts.”

NZBC Board Chairman Jujhar Randhawa said: “NZ Business Connect is about more than business growth. It’s about building a community that looks after one another and gives back. Social giving is central to our ethos, and events like this show how powerful that mix of development and community spirit can be.”

NZBC Founder Phillip Quay added: “NZ Business Connect is growing because people see the value of sharing knowledge and supporting each other. Technology like AI can spark innovation, but it’s the human connections that turn ideas into action. That balance is what we’re all about.”

The evening closed with thanks to hosts, sponsors, and the dedicated NZBC team, who make each gathering a success. Looking ahead, members were invited to the next event on October 14th, where the focus will shift to exploring a firm’s journey to success.

By combining cutting-edge insights with genuine community spirit, NZ Business Connect continues to prove itself as a hub where businesses not only grow but thrive together. 



Foley Douglas



WHO WE ARE

Foley Douglas are a team of friendly and experienced general practice lawyers who have built a strong client base within the property and commercial law sectors.

As 'Lawyers for All Aspects of Life,' we're here to support you at every step of your journey – whether you're purchasing your first home or investment property, reviewing and renewing commercial contracts, or planning for the future with confidence.

Give our team a call to discuss how we can assist you, or visit our website to see our full range of services.

INVOLVEMENT WITH NZBC

Foley Douglas is proud to be partnering with NZ Business Connect for the third year and to have Senior Associate, Isaac Whatnall, serving on the board. Isaac first joined NZBC in 2023 and has been an active contributor ever since. We value NZBC for its "show up, add value, follow through" approach – something we aim to live out in our own work. Through NZBC, we've built connections with like-minded trades, businesses, and professional services, and supported events that build a stronger, more collaborative Waikato. For us, it's about doing good work, helping others, and paying it forward.

TERMS OF TRADE – MADE EASY!

What are Terms of Trade?

Terms of trade are the guiding document for traders conducting business. They cover aspects like payment, delivery, warranties, and dispute resolution. Also known as Ts&Cs, they form the legal foundation of your transactions.

Why Do You Need Them?

Without clearly defined terms of trade, your business is navigating without direction. While things may run smoothly most of the time, having well-drafted terms can be a lifesaver when dealing with challenging customers. Additionally, they allow you to set the conditions of engagement—what's not to appreciate?

When Should You Provide Terms of Trade?

Always. Every time. Ensure your customers are aware of and agree to your terms before or at the point of sale (even if they don't thoroughly read the fine print). If updates are made, notify existing customers to avoid confusion—nothing says "new terms" like a courteous heads-up!

How to Create Terms of Trade?

You can draft them yourself using templates, use an online service, or consult a professional (like a lawyer). Whichever approach you choose, ensure your terms are clear, reasonable, and tailored to your specific business needs.



Leveraging AI to Evolve Soil Science for Dr Gordon Rajendram

BY PHONG MAI CHÍ

Dr Gordon Rajendram PhD, based in Hamilton, is one of New Zealand's foremost soil fertility experts with over 35 years of experience in analytical testing, applied research, and independent consultancy. Renowned for developing field-calibrated nitrogen and sulphur soil tests used in the Overseer nutrient model, he builds trust through evidence-based advice on nutrient cycling, effluent reuse, foliar fertiliser, and soil health.

Synthesia AI is a generative video platform that converts text scripts into professional-quality videos using lifelike avatars and multilingual voiceovers, all without cameras or editing teams. It supports over 120–140 languages and offers consistent branded delivery across videos.

Educational Content Creation Opportunities

1. **Soil Science Tutorials** Dr Rajendram can transform key technical content, such as soil test interpretation, effluent management guidelines, and foliar fertiliser applications into short (1–3 min) explainer videos. These enhance comprehension for farmers and advisors, allowing them to visualise best practices and decision thresholds.


2. **Seasonal Field Advice Series** Based on his well-regarded monthly and seasonal newsletters, he could produce a regular video series (e.g. spring nutrient planning, winter foliar sprays, erosion mitigation). This helps deliver timely, actionable guidance in a more engaging format than text alone.

3. **Client Onboarding & FAQs** Instead of repeating the same explanations in person or by email, avatar-led videos can introduce his services, explain sample collection protocols, lab-reading steps, and highlight the value of foliar versus granular fertilisers.

Benefits Summary

- **Time & Cost Efficiency:** Video generation takes minutes, and updates can be reused or localised for Māori and Pasifika audiences.
- **Consistency & Scalability:** Every video reflects a uniform style, tone, and branding, reinforcing identity and aiding trust.
- **Accessibility & Reach:** Multilingual videos and caption options expand viewership, improve SEO, and support inclusive outreach.

Recommendation: Begin by selecting two core topics such as "How to Read Soil Test Results" and "Winter Foliar Fertiliser Use" as well as drafting concise scripts using a burger-style structure (intro, explanation, call-to-action). Use Synthesia to generate initial videos, then host them on the website, embed into newsletters, and share via social platforms or farming groups.

By integrating Synthesia AI, Dr Rajendram can modernise his educational outreach and transform expert content into engaging, shareable, and scalable videos that strengthen his professional presence and impact in New Zealand agriculture. 



Q & A with Tarun Kumar from Lugtons Limited

1. What do you love most about your job?

What I love most is making a real difference in people's lives. Buying or selling a home is such an important milestone, and being trusted to guide clients through it is very rewarding. I enjoy building relationships, understanding people's goals, and helping them achieve the best result. No two days are ever the same, and seeing the excitement when a deal comes together is what makes this job so special.

2. How did you get into the real estate industry?

I've always had a strong interest in property and people. Over the years, I also helped my family and friends with their property process and really enjoyed it. That experience made me realise how much I love guiding others through such an important step, so I decided to start my career in real estate.

3. What do you do differently to others?

One way I stand out is by using AI-driven marketing tools to target the right buyers more effectively. This allows me to create smarter campaigns, generate greater interest, and ultimately achieve stronger results for my clients.

4. What are a few things you like to do outside work?

Outside of real estate, I enjoy spending time with my family, listening to music, and watching movies. I also like exploring new places and, from time to time, I go clay bird shooting, it's a great way to unwind.


5. Where do you live and what family do you have? What do you most like about Hamilton?

I live locally with my family, and I really appreciate the balance Hamilton offers, excellent schools, a growing community, and plenty of opportunities for families. I like that it has all the essentials of a city while still maintaining a friendly, connected feel.

6. What's your advice to buyers, particularly new buyers?

Do your homework, but don't overthink things. Get your pre-approval sorted early, know your budget, and attend open homes to build a clear understanding of the market. Most importantly, ask questions, the more informed you are, the more confident your decisions will be. Also, find a good real estate sales person who will help you every step of the way in your buying process.

7. Do you have any other general property advice?

My biggest piece of advice is to think long term. Property is one of the most reliable ways to build wealth, but it's not about chasing short-term gains, it's about choosing a home or investment that will serve you well over time. 



TARUN KUMAR

The Rise of Generative Engine Optimisation in SEO

Stay ahead in SEO with GEO, the next big trend in online presence.

BY PHILLIP QUAY

A new player has entered the SEO landscape, transforming how businesses approach content visibility.

Generative engine optimisation (GEO), fuelled by the evolution of AI-powered search engines, is the driving force behind this shift and Hamilton-based Total Digital Marketing is leading the way in its implementation.

GEO focuses on aligning your content with the needs of generative AI, which goes beyond simple keyword matching to understand context and user intent. For your business, GEO offers a powerful way to enhance your content creation and improve your search engine visibility.

GEO improves visibility on AI-driven search engines like Google's new Search Generative Experience (SGE), also known as [AI Overviews](#), unlike traditional search engines, which focus on optimising content for rankings based on keywords and backlinks, GEO targets AI search engines that generate detailed, context-rich responses to user queries.

In GEO, AI and machine learning play important roles. These technologies analyze vast amounts of data, including user intent and contextual relevance, to generate comprehensive answers. For example, when a user asks a complex question, AI search engines use machine learning models to provide a detailed, accurate overview, rather than just listing relevant links as traditional search engines do.

GEO is all about aligning your content with how AI-driven search engines generate responses.


Unlike traditional search engine optimisation, which relies heavily on keyword research and meta tags, GEO methods dive deeper into understanding user intent and behaviour. The goal is to create content that fits seamlessly into AI-generated responses, providing comprehensive answers that match what users are looking for.

Incorporating GEO into your online strategy allows your business to improve its digital presence in a world where AI-driven search engines are becoming the norm.

GEO allows you to create content that directly addresses users' intent. AI-driven tools help you identify and incorporate relevant keywords that match what users are searching for by analyzing search behavior. This approach makes your content more likely to appear in search results, driving more organic search traffic to your site.

Generative engine optimisations also help you provide personalized, context-rich content that meets users' needs.

You improve your chances of ranking higher in search results when you align your content with the needs of AI-driven search engines. This optimisation boosts your organic search traffic, making your business more visible and accessible to potential customers.

For further information on GEO please contact Total Digital Marketing Phillip Quay (0274 587724) or Steve Fallon (021 794 868) 

Find Flexibility and Focus From SHARED Workspaces Hamilton

BY FIONA STEPHEN




For forward-thinking professionals, flexibility is fundamental. SHARED Workspaces in Hamilton is the perfect facility for freelancers, founders, and firms that want freedom without the fuss of long-term leases. Centrally located, this friendly hub provides a fresh, functional, and fully equipped environment where focus meets flow, and you guessed it... SHARED is making sure there is an F in workspace.

The training room is designed with practicality and professionalism in mind. With layouts that can be adapted to suit workshops, team meetings, or training seminars, it's easy to create the right setting for your needs. High-speed fibre Wi-Fi, audio-visual equipment, a whiteboard, and comfortable seating all come as standard, ensuring sessions run smoothly. With flexible booking options, you'll only pay for the time you use, making it a cost-effective choice for growing businesses.

For those looking for a smart alternative to working from home, SHARED's desk membership system offers both flexibility and convenience.

Hot desking provides a professional space to focus, network, and access essential office facilities without the commitment of a long term lease or permanent office. It is ideal to remove the distractions from home, health and safety challenges for employers with the home office environment, while keeping their schedule focused, fluid, and flexible.

Beyond the facilities, SHARED Workspaces creates an environment where people can connect and collaborate. Whether you're here for a training session or to work for the day, it's a space designed to help you get things done in a safe, friendly, feng shui environment.

So, if you're planning a formal function, searching for a flexible desk, or simply looking for a fresh environment to fuel your focus, SHARED Workspaces Hamilton is your future-forward solution. Find your flow today – book a flexible space at SHARED and feel the difference. Join now and take advantage of the media coverage guarantee. 

“Flexibility has always been at the heart of SHARED – one goal is to give professionals the freedom to work in a way that fits their lifestyle!” – Tony Snow, Founder of SHARED Workspaces

At MHCO we believe in putting the pedal to the metal, rolling up our sleeves and getting you beyond your end goal.

We will not stand idly by and watch. No, no, at MHCO, we like to be in the engine room because that is where we have impact, that is where we can challenge you, support you and make you better.


MHCO is a collective organisation that seeks to bring you success in your business with their energy, their expertise and their vast connections across a range of business disciplines.

MHCO. Business Facilitators & Enablers.



MAISEY HARRIS & CO

PEDAL TO THE METAL



**“Health is a state of
complete harmony of the
body, mind, and spirit.”**
– B.K.S. Iyengar

Health & Wellness

Unlocking the Power of Alignment: Living a Life You Truly Desire

BY PAULETTE COOMBES




So many people I meet feel like they're moving through life on autopilot—busy, yet unfulfilled. They tick the boxes, meet obligations, and put on a brave face, but deep down, they sense something is missing and they feel stuck. That “something” is often alignment.

Alignment happens when your thoughts, feelings, and actions are in harmony with your deepest values and desires. When you're aligned, you don't just push through life—you flow through it. You make decisions more easily, your relationships become more authentic, you want to take care of your health, and your goals stop feeling like heavy burdens and start to feel like natural extension of who you are. By gaining this clarity you begin to have vibrant energy and you feel alive.

As a transformational life coach, I've seen countless breakthroughs with my clients where they begin to live in alignment. One client felt stuck in her career, she was highly successful but at the same time she didn't feel expansive. We explored how she could realign her life to honour her desires. Within months, she transitioned into work that reignited her passion. Her energy shifted, and so did every aspect of her life.

When also worked with a couple on the verge of ending a long-term relationship. Both partners were stuck in old patterns, blaming each other for their disconnection. Through coaching, they began to identify what they truly valued and how to communicate from a place of alignment rather than frustration. Today, their relationship feels stronger and more fulfilling than it has in years.

The truth is that alignment is available to all of us. The starting point is self-awareness: asking yourself powerful questions like, what do I really want? What lights me up? Where am I living out of obligation rather than inspiration? And what makes me feel expansive rather than constrictive. By taking consistent small steps toward a life that reflects those answers, this creates a ripple effect, leading to more fulfilment, freedom and joy in all aspects of your life. 



The Wellness Power of Premium Mānuka Honey

BY KAREN LO, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ARISTA FOODS LTD



UMF™ Quality Assurance System
 Arista exemplifies excellence and reliability in premium UMF™-certified monofloral Mānuka honey.
 UMF™ grade represents the honey's strength — the higher the grade, the stronger the antibacterial and health benefits.

SIX Reasons For You to Choose Arista:

1. UMF™ Certified Excellence (tested for 250+ natural compounds)
2. 100% Monofloral & Traceable (Pure, authentic New Zealand origin)
3. AFB-Free Honey (Healthy bees, disease-free honey)
4. C4-Sugar and Moisture Compliant (Meets EU, US & CA food standards)
5. Ultra-Potent UMF™ 33+ (Rare, premium-grade Mānuka honey)
6. Extended 5-Year Best Before (Guaranteed longevity & stability)

Arista Honoured Among Global Top 6 Mānuka Honey Brands
 Recognized by Top International Procurement Platforms for quality, consistency, and sustainability. Trusted by buyers across the EU and worldwide.

UMF™ Grades and Benefits:

- UMF5+ (MGO 83):** Daily health care. Basic health care. Pleasant mild digestion. Daily digestion support.
- UMF10+ (MGO 261):** Repair & conditioning. Nutritional repair honey. Minerals and healing. Repairs digestion.
- UMF15+ (MGO 512):** Anti-inflammatory. Strong anti-inflammatory. Relieves inflammation. Soothes throat & stomach. Supports liver recovery.
- UMF20+ (MGO 826):** High medicinal value. Anti-cancer & immunity. High antiviral activity. Fights bacteria. Nourishes skin. Improves body pH.
- UMF25+ (MGO 1197):** Medical grade. Anti-cancer & immunity. High antiviral activity. Fights bacteria. Nourishes skin. Reduces hair loss. Strengthens body.
- UMF33+ (MGO 1917):** Rare healing. Supreme rare honey. Antibacterial & cancer-preventive. Clears blood sugar. Protects liver & skin. Enhances complexion. Reduces hair loss. Strengthens body.

UMF™ means more than simply MGO.
 UMF™ is an internationally recognized rating system that independently certifies Mānuka honey. It measures four key elements: methylglyoxal (MGO) for potency, purity, authenticity, and freshness. UMF20+ monofloral Mānuka honey is also available from Arista by special order.

SIX Reasons For You to Choose Arista:

- Monofloral Source
- Slower Rise
- No Added Sugar
- Traceable
- Antioxidants
- Natural Enzymes
- MGO Potency

Did you know it takes 12 bees their entire lifetimes, flying nearly 3,000 miles, to make just one tablespoon of honey? Every drop is a miracle of nature, and Mānuka honey is especially treasured for its rare compounds and healing potential.

When selecting premium Mānuka honey, always look for UMF (Unique Mānuka Factor) certification, which guarantees authenticity and potency. Monofloral Mānuka honey, sourced mainly from the Mānuka flower, carries stronger antibacterial benefits and a higher price. Multifloral blends are more affordable but contain lower concentrations of active compounds.

[insert Diagram: UMF Grades – from 5+ for daily wellness to 33+ for intensive use]

You might wonder: why is honey sweet, isn't that bad for me? Unlike refined sugar, Mānuka honey's sweetness comes with over 2,300 natural compounds, including enzymes and antioxidants. When produced using gentle warming and thermalisation methods, like Arista's, these nutrients remain intact.

Some people feel a tingling or sore sensation in the throat after taking Mānuka honey. This is a natural response to its antibacterial and enzyme activity at work.

For the best results, enjoy honey on an empty stomach first thing in the morning, within an hour after lunch, and again before bed. Increase intake, one to two teaspoons, two to three times daily, when feeling unwell. Always use non-metal spoons to avoid oxidation, and store honey away from heat and sunlight at a stable 16–20°C.

Important to note: honey should never be given to infants under 12 months, and those with severe allergies to bee products should avoid it.

Mānuka honey is not just food, it is nature's gift for wellness, carefully crafted by bees and valued for centuries for its healing properties. 🌿

Wellness as a Lifestyle: Holistic Massage in Hamilton

BY ROBYN OWEN



Kia ora, Robyn here, welcome to Vital Balance. I've spent many years providing massage therapy and bodywork here in Hamilton, but my journey began long before that, living in beautiful Te Tairāwhiti. Over time, I've learned that true wellness goes far beyond a single treatment, it's about nurturing the whole person: body, mind, and spirit.


Across cultures, bodywork has been a trusted tool for holistic wellness. Indigenous peoples around the world used massage not just to ease tension but to maintain balance within the whole person: body, mind, and spirit. It wasn't about "fixing what was broken"; it was about nurturing ongoing health and vitality. This philosophy continues to guide the way I practice today.

Massage has a profound effect on the nervous system. By creating a calm, safe space, we help the body move from stress into deep relaxation. Activating the parasympathetic nervous system allows muscles to release tension, the mind to settle, and emotions to surface safely. Many clients notice shifts beyond the physical, feeling lighter, calmer, or more grounded, while some experience emotions like sadness or frustration.

These responses are completely normal and part of the path to holistic wellbeing.

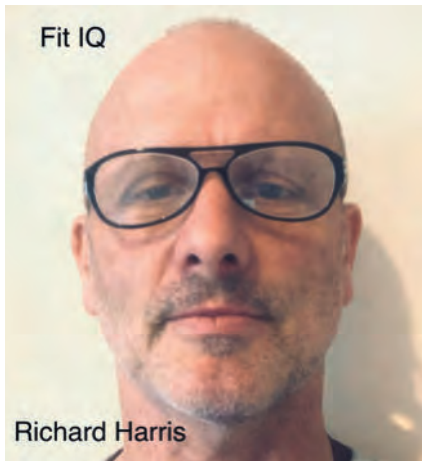
Not every massage therapist approaches treatments this way, which is why I'm incredibly selective about the team I've built. Jay and Nicole share this same mindful, collaborative approach, ensuring every client feels safe, supported, and truly heard. Together, we create an environment where your body and mind can reset, and where emotional awareness is always welcomed.

Paying attention to your responses after a session helps guide your ongoing treatment plan. How does your body feel? Are your emotions lighter or heavier? Do you feel more connected to yourself, others, or your surroundings? These insights allow us to create a personalised, holistic approach that supports your long-term wellbeing, not just short-term comfort.

Massage at Vital Balance isn't just about easing tension, it's about alignment, maintenance, and connection. I look forward to welcoming you to our Hamilton clinic and supporting you on your journey to holistic wellness, balance, and vitality in every aspect of your life. 

'One body to live in' Small Daily Habits

BY RICHARD HARRIS



Without pulling too many punches – it is less important to me as I get older to appease people. It's ok to keep it real.


After spending the best part of 25 years working in and around fitness – like many people I have seen most fitness fads come and go. Some crazy diets and any number of self-help gurus brandish the latest healing approach for modern day existence.

What I have learned through all of this is pretty simple. It is on you to control your destiny and ultimately your health. A very basic understanding is move often – eat whole foods – rest well – and surround yourself with positive people. We can manipulate all of those components to market to the consumer. Cold plunges, Hyrox training, saunas, keto diets and life coaches – but seriously, if we ate a little less, moved often, turned off the TV earlier and formed healthier relationships – we might just avoid the pitfalls of running to the latest advice.

Having been around sport at a development level for some time, the approach to balance is better resonates strongly with me.



Now to the crunch. You have one body to live in! That is pretty irrefutable? I would look after it as without your health, the shiny toys and flash cars count for little. It fascinates me that our current health system is bursting at the seams – and drugs are the strategy to maintain a level of suboptimal health. No doubt some people will have medical symptoms beyond the foundations of healthy living (as above).

Much like a bank account and a business ROI calculator – regular check-in's and maintenance schedules should be applied to our health status. Small daily healthy habits add up over time. A bit like compounding interest. 

Richard Harris

Fit IQ - 'You are you'.

Food Traditions Around the World – What Chefs Learn from Travel

BY CHEF RENE PLANK

MAARTE
catering for venues.

One of the greatest gifts of being a chef is the chance to taste the world. Every country has its own culinary heartbeat, its own traditions simmered and perfected over generations. And as chefs, when we travel, we don't just bring back recipes, we bring back stories, techniques, and a deeper respect for the cultures that shaped them.

Take a simple loaf of bread. In France, it's a crusty baguette, in Italy, a rustic ciabatta, and in India, a pillowy naan. Each tells a story of local ingredients, climate, and the hands that have kneaded it for centuries. As a chef, tasting and learning these traditions firsthand gives you a profound appreciation for the nuances of each cuisine.

What do we bring home from these journeys? We bring the confidence to mix and match flavours in ways we never imagined. We learn that a dash of spice from one culture can elevate a dish rooted in another, and that food is a universal language that brings people together, no matter where they're from.

And if you're looking for a practical takeaway, here's one to try: the next time you're making a simple roast chicken, add a sprinkle of garam masala, a warm, fragrant Indian spice blend, to your seasoning. You'll find it brings a whole new depth of flavour to a familiar dish, and it's a perfect example of how a little travel-inspired creativity can transform your home cooking. ©



“Bringing the world to your kitchen, one simple twist at a time. Stay curious, and we’ll keep the flavours coming.”

Blooming Connections: Gail's Floral Studio Joins NZ Business Connect

BY CAMERON COETZEE


Gail's Floral Studio is delighted to join the NZ Business Connect network, bringing with it a spirit of creativity, community, and connection. This partnership represents a fresh chapter for the beloved Hamilton CBD floral studio, strengthening its commitment to supporting local people, celebrating special moments, and helping communities flourish.

For years, Gail's Floral Studio has been more than just a florist. With every bouquet, arrangement, and custom design, Gail and her team have turned life's milestones into lasting memories. Their philosophy is rooted in care, not only for their customers but also for the environment. For years, Gail's Floral Studio has been more than just a florist. With every bouquet, arrangement, and custom design, Gail and her team have turned life's milestones into lasting memories. Their philosophy is rooted in care, not only for their customers but also for the environment, sourcing fresh blooms responsibly and working closely with local growers wherever possible.

Community is at the heart of what Gail's Floral Studio does. From contributing floral arrangements to local events, to supporting families and businesses with personalised service, their work reflects a genuine dedication to enriching lives. Joining NZ Business Connect opens new opportunities for Gail's Floral Studio to collaborate with like-minded businesses, amplify their reach, and inspire others to embrace the beauty of both nature and community.



GAIL'S FLORAL STUDIO

Through their artistry, Gail's Floral Studio demonstrates that flowers are more than decorations; they are expressions of connection, compassion, and celebration. With the support of NZ Business Connect, Gail's Floral Studio in Hamilton CBD will continue to bloom, building connections throughout the Waikato and beyond. 

[Visit Gail's Floral Studio](#)

Find us in the heart of the city:
401 Victoria Street, Hamilton CBD

Phone: 07 839 0988

Where every bloom tells a story



Cakes, Cupcakes
& Fudge

The
Girl *on*
the **Swing**

23 Lynden Court, Chartwell

Sweet Treats, Big Heart: The Girl on the Swing Joins NZBC

BY AUNG THITA

We're excited to welcome Izzy Hughes, owner of Girl on a Swing, to the NZ Business Connect network. A well-known name in Hamilton, Girl on a Swing creates stunning custom cakes, cupcakes, cookies and personalised treats for weddings, corporate events, school fundraisers and community celebrations.

Izzy took over the business two and a half years ago, building on its strong legacy and expanding its range. Once focused mainly on buttercream cakes, it has become a hub of cake artistry, now including intricate fondant and royal icing designs. With Fernando, a decorator with nearly 20 years' experience, by her side, Izzy has raised the standard of custom cakes in the Waikato.

Community is at the heart of everything they do. Izzy regularly supports local schools, charities and events—judging bake sales, speaking to food tech classes, and donating cupcakes for fundraisers, proving her business is about more than profit.

Looking ahead, she is preparing to launch a new section of the website offering cake decorating supplies to customers across New Zealand, while also developing wholesale options for other cake shops and home bakers. Her vision is to grow a thriving online store and eventually refit the shop to enhance the customer experience.

“We’re a true New Zealand business that just wants to be part of the community.”

– Izzy Hughes

Today, Girl on a Swing is a trusted choice for everyone from busy mums and engaged couples to home bakers and corporate clients. Whether it's a show-stopping wedding cake, branded cupcakes for a business event, or thoughtful treats delivered across Hamilton, Izzy and her team bring creativity, care and a personal touch to every order.

Driving Innovation in Education and ICT Solutions – Enform

BY FIONA STEPHEN

Established in 2017, Enform began as part of Activate Training Centre, with a vision to provide a robust student management system for the education sector. After initially adopting AdminPlus+, the limitations of the platform inspired the creation of Ensign – Enform’s flagship Education Management System, purpose-built for Private Tertiary Education providers.

In 2022, following a restructure, Enform became a subsidiary of Activate Education Limited and transitioned into a fully-fledged ICT company. This marked a major turning point as the business expanded its services beyond education to support small and medium enterprises across the Waikato region. From humble beginnings with just two employees, Enform has grown into a dynamic technology provider, committed to delivering innovative and reliable solutions.

Today, Enform offers a comprehensive suite of services designed to empower both education providers and SMEs. These include managed IT support, cybersecurity, VoIP solutions, hosting services, hardware and backup solutions, as well as web and custom software development. Enform’s products are designed to reduce risk, streamline operations, and help businesses achieve their digital transformation goals.

With managed services at the heart of its offering, Enform takes the stress out of technology by ensuring systems are secure, reliable and continuously supported. This proactive approach gives clients the confidence to focus on growing their business while Enform handles the technical complexity.



PIETER DU PLESSIS GENERAL MANAGER

In addition to supporting SMEs, Enform continues to make a strong impact in the education sector with Ensign, its cloud-based education management platform that simplifies NZQA and TEC compliance. The company also offers Enlogix, a managed IT service tailored specifically for educational institutions, combining deep sector knowledge with technical expertise.

What sets Enform apart is its customer-focused approach and commitment to practical, scalable results. Whether building custom software, supporting business IT infrastructure, or helping education providers meet compliance requirements, the focus is always on delivering tools that are intuitive, secure, and aligned with each client’s goals.

With roots in education and a future in technology innovation, Enform has established itself as both a purpose-driven innovator and a trusted ICT partner. NZ Business Connect is proud to welcome Enform, a company dedicated to empowering organisations and enabling growth through smart, sustainable managed services and technology solutions. 

