

Chairman's Report – AGM 2008

This report marks the half way point in my term as Chairman of LHBA. It's been both a challenging and a rewarding year. From my point of view all of our members can take great pride in the continued contribution LHBA is making to the business community around the Harbour.

The highlights of the past year have included LHBA's proactive advocacy in support of member businesses around the Harbour. We have had several opportunities to assist members in their relationships with Christchurch City Council, from issues regarding CCC lease agreements, consent applications and through to the London Street Upgrade program. Through these efforts the combined weight of your membership has proven a valuable asset to many of your colleagues.

In addition to our advocacy initiatives we have also facilitated the launch of our newest cluster group, The London Street Cluster. Through the efforts of committee member Lee Ann Stewart (Coffee Culture) and Andrew Turner (Empire Hotel) the London Street Cluster has provided leadership and a unified representation of Lyttelton CBD businesses successfully influencing the critical timing of London Street construction to minimize its impact on affected businesses. Outstanding effort from all involved.

Throughout the year we have also continued to refine and expand our member communication capabilities. With expansion of our newsletter efforts we are continuing to provide additional information, news and calendar listing offerings.

Many of these services take advantage of LHBA's ongoing effort to provide an online benefit to both members and the wider community. The website, www.lytteltonharbour.co.nz is the cornerstone of these efforts. The success of the website in raising the profile of our members' businesses is apparent in the frequent comments we receive regarding web referrals and the monthly reports we now make available to web members.

However, we are keenly aware that Harbour area businesses face the uncertainties brought about by the global financial situation. Few, if any, of us are immune. But in time like these opportunities always open to those who adapt quickly and leverage all their resources. In saying this we suggest all LHBA's members involve themselves in the Association and take full advantage of everything we have to offer.

Finally, on behalf of all our members, we'd like to thank those committee members, Rob Gendall (Lyttelton Engineering) and Susie Johnston (She Café), whose terms are now expiring, for their support and efforts on our behalf. And we welcome those people elected to the committee tonight. We're looking forward to an outstanding year in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Bill Skelton
Chairman