

Minutes for the Annual General Meeting, 30th July 2015

The 31st Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand German Business Association commenced at 4:17pm.

NZGBA President Erich Bachmann welcomed all members and confirmed that a quorum was present and then declared the meeting open.

APOLOGIES

A list of apologies from members was made available. An additional apology from Dr. Holger Detje from Bayer NZ Ltd was recorded.

Accepted by Dean Sheed, seconded by Steve Martin. The apologies were accepted and carried by all.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr Erich Bachmann advised that the minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held on the 10th of June 2014 were approved by the Executive Committee as a true and accurate record and were distributed to members. These minutes were uploaded to the NZGBA website

(<http://neuseeland.ahk.de/en/about-us/agm/>). There were no matters arising from these minutes.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Erich Bachmann presented the following report to the meeting:

As President of the NZGBA it is my task to make each year sound more exciting than the last and it is certainly an easy undertaking this year due to a number of high-profile events in 2014.

I will in a brief succinct report, cover not only the activities the NZGBA has undertaken in the past year, but also allude on topics of relevance to the trading relationship. I understand you have all received a booklet highlighting key information and I will just touch on a few points.

Last year was certainly a sensational year with the German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel coming to New Zealand, 17 years after the last visit of a German chancellor. The NZGBA had a very active and intense involvement in the visit including a round table business discussion and hosting a function at the Auckland Art Gallery which turned out to be an extremely successful event. The Chancellor's action packed 24 hour stopover on her way to the G7-summit in Brisbane will be fondly remembered by us for a long time.

But let's focus on more mundane matters, such as the economy, before turning our attention back to the interesting activities of the NZGBA.

China remains New Zealand's very important trading partner for New Zealand overall, keeping its prime position before Australia and the USA. However, it should be remembered that Europe is New Zealand's third largest export trading partner. Around 9% of our exports go to a country in the European Union and of course Germany is the largest economy in that region.

It is also worth noting that the European Union accounted for 15% of NZ's entire import value for 2014. This surpassed China (14%) and meant that Europe took the top spot back from China which occupied the number 1 position in the previous year.

According to Statistics New Zealand figures, the 2014 bi-lateral trade between New Zealand and Germany amounted to some 3.1 billion NZD (an increase of almost 7% over 2013).

Imports from Germany have increased again over the past year and look likely to do so again this year. Amongst the main imported products are vehicles, electrical machinery and equipment as well as optical, photographic, cinematographic apparatus/accessories which make up 74% of all imports from Germany. The total amount of imports from Germany came to 2.46 billion NZD.

There is still a lot to be done to balance the trade relationship. New Zealand needs

to increase its exports to Germany in order to balance the books.

Turning to the NZGBA. I believe the Treasurer will cover the audited financial statements in a bit more detail, so let me simply state that our audited result for 2014 is a modest surplus of \$ 4,291.

In terms of membership numbers, the Association welcomed 25 new members in 2014. Resignations were more or less the same so that we have largely maintained our membership numbers. With over 200 members we can continue to claim to be the strongest membership base amongst the EU organizations here in New Zealand.

As always members have been kept informed throughout the year via our electronic newsletters and have also received the annual publication "Double the Vision"

Last year was also packed with events, for both members and clients. Although the Chancellor's visit was the most noteworthy of all there were also other activities which I would like to highlight:

- *workshops covering topics such as employment law, navigating cultural differences, managing country diversity and cloud security;*
- *the usual Oktoberfest with a record number of more than 340 guests;*
- *participation in the Energy Efficiency Conference;*
- *another pavilion "made in Germany" at the BuildNZ Canterbury and other smaller networking events.*

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our sponsors

*and premium partners for their generous support of the NZGBA's events throughout the year. **Auckland City BMW, Stihl, Hesketh Henry, Schenker, Lufthansa, Realtech and our new premium partner Enterprise recruitment.** None of these events could have taken place without our sponsors. Your on-going assistance and active participation is certainly very much appreciated.*

I would also like to thank my fellow colleagues on the Executive Committee for their time commitment over the past year. Thank you for giving up your valuable time to participate in the Committee.

I would also like to extend a very big thank to our CEO, Monique Surges and all the members of her team (Anne, just back from a business trip to Germany, Sabrina, Sandy, Harry, Eva & Doris who work from home and finally our dedicated interns Celine & David – past staff member Helen). Last year was extremely busy. We certainly very much appreciate the above and beyond the call of duty efforts that are required on your part to deliver outstanding outcomes for the Association.

A big thank you also to our host of the evening, Bauer Media Group NZ, the country's largest and most influential magazine publisher. We certainly very much appreciate your hospitality. I would also like to encourage everyone to have a look at some of our member companies displays of their products and services – namely, Digital Island, CodeBlue, Enterprise Recruitment, Baldwins, EY, Business World Travel and, of course, Bauer Media. Also very important to note

is the fact that drinks have been supplied by Giesen Wines and Hofbrau Biers.

Is there any discussion relating to any item contained within my report?

No additional discussion relating to items contained in the report ensued. The report was moved by Grant Bevin and seconded by Joanne Hand.

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 have been made available prior to the meeting via the website; copies were also made available at the AGM.

NZGBA Treasurer, Mr. Robert Knox, elaborated on the accounts pointing out that there was a surplus of \$4,291 for the 2014 year, and surplus of approximately \$18,759 on a cash basis after adding back depreciation. He also emphasised that due to the nature of the business and the financial reporting to Germany, significant surpluses would result in paying back funds.

He further highlighted that although the Chancellor's visit generated costs there were no costs as such as these could be recovered from Germany and are in the account *German Trade Representative Funding*. Taking this income and expenditure out of the equation gives a similar result to 2013.

It should be noted that of the \$600 000 of generated income, only 10% is membership subscriptions which means a tremendous effort was made to generate the additional income.

There being no questions relating to the financial statements Mr. Robert Knox moved that the financial accounts for the

year ended 31 December 2014 be adopted. This was seconded by Harald Hamster-Egerer and Dean Sheed and carried by all.

Appointment of auditor

The Treasurer moved that Crowe Howarth be appointed as auditor for the year 2015. This motion was seconded by Joanne Hand and carried by all.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mr. Erich Bachmann informed members that The NZGBA executive committee considers that the membership subscriptions require no adjustments this year but that an upward adjustment will need to be considered again in 2016 at the next AGM.

- Individuals: \$ 315 +GST
- 1-30 employees: \$ 425+GST
- Over 30 employees: \$ 580 +GST
- EURO based members: 225 EURO

Mr. Robert Knox seconded the membership subscriptions; the decision was carried by all.

The final agenda item was the election of the committee and officers.

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The chair was passed to the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Monique Surges, to conduct this section of the meeting.

Mrs Monique Surges advised that in accordance with the rules of the New Zealand German Business Association, a number of nominations were received in writing.

Before reading these out Mrs Surges formally thanked the committee for their time and support over the past year.

There have been some changes to the executive and we have some stepping down to whom the CEO expressed her deepest appreciation:

The full list of nominations for the 2015/2016 Executive Committee is as follows:

Erich	Bachmann	Hesketh Henry
Grant	Bevin	Business World Travel
Robert	Knox	BDO Auckland
Jim	Bibby	Stihl Limited
Holger	Detje	Bayer New Zealand Ltd
Harald	Hamster	Turners & Growers New Zealand Ltd
Joanne	Hand	Realtech Ltd
Mark	Harrison	Schenker (NZ) Ltd
Martin	Koenig	BMW Group New Zealand
Mark	Loveday	EY
Steve	Martin	Enterprise Recruitment
Chris	McGagney	Hellmann
Paul	Ravlich	Siemens NZ Ltd
Dean	Sheed	European Motor Distributors
Monique	Surges	New Zealand German Business Assn

Those that did not seek re-election are:

- Nigel Smith, Wallenius Ships Services Ltd
- Stephen Diver, SDR Ltd

GENERAL BUSINESS

The New Zealand German Business Association has received no notice of any general business for consideration at this meeting.

Mr Bachmann then declared the 31st Annual General Meeting closed at 4:34pm and invited members for drinks and nibbles.