

# MINUTES



Repräsentanz der  
Deutschen Wirtschaft  
German-New Zealand  
Chamber of Commerce Inc.

## 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020

Meeting commenced at 4.37 pm.

German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (GNZCC) President, Jim Bibby, welcomed members to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and confirmed a quorum was present.

### APOLOGIES

A list of apologies was made available to all attendees in the handout supplied on arrival.

Dean Sheed moved that the apologies be accepted, and this was seconded by Erich Bachmann

Carried by all.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 36<sup>TH</sup> AGM

Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 were approved by the Executive Committee as a true and accurate record and were made available to members via the website after last year's AGM. Additional copies were on hand.

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

*Members of the German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to present my annual report to you, at this, our 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Chamber (referred to as "your Chamber" for the remainder of my report). The report covers our financial year ending 31*

*December 2019. However, given the global developments post-December, brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic, it would be remiss of me if I didn't also provide you with some additional thoughts and forward-looking commentary about what the future might look like, particularly the remainder of this current year, from the Chamber's perspective.*

*But let me start with a thank you, to you, our Members.*

*As we all know, New Zealand, indeed the world as a global community, has been and continues to go through an extraordinary period of challenge and very real risk in terms of our individual and collective health and wellbeing. Here in New Zealand after a successful period of lockdown to beat, or at least suppress, the spread of Covid-19, we are only now just beginning to re-connect with each other in terms of participating in social gatherings and attending organised events; like this one here today for example.*

*In fact, this is the first "non-virtual Chamber event" to take place since March. So, I'd like to thank all Members who have come here in person today to Häfele, to attend this Annual General Meeting and to "re-connect" with other like-minded Chamber Members. Let's acknowledge and celebrate that together – a bit later, maybe!*

*Thank you also, and a warm welcome to our Wellington-based Members who have gathered together in our nation's capital and*



the number of projects and events undertaken by our management and staff in support of current Members. According to your survey feedback, networking is one of the most important and most valued aspects of your being a Chamber Member - and by that we assume you don't just mean having a good time at the GNZCC Oktoberfest, which, by the way, was another well patronised and successful evening out last September!

We also hosted a number of VIPs from Germany throughout the year, covering areas of diplomacy, trade and commerce, which on occasion provided the opportunity to facilitate round-table discussions with our Member companies in order for those Members to highlight and promote specific topics of interest from their perspective to our overseas visitors.

For those who attended our AGM last year at STIHL Headquarters in East Tamaki, you may recall a short presentation given by Anja Strogies who outlined a new Chamber sponsored initiative, called Young Professionals. To recap, in order to sustain a strong Chamber network in the future as we have today, it is important we are able to reach out beyond CEO and senior executive level within our Member companies and "reach down" to attract the up-and-coming next generation of leaders as well. The aim of the Young Professionals initiative is to do just that. Through a series of tailored social events and networking opportunities, the aim of the Young Professionals is, over time, to broaden our GNZCC reach to a more "multiple-contact" network within our Member companies.

I am pleased to report that the Young Professionals is no longer just a concept, it is a thriving division of the Chamber and I would like to formally congratulate Anja and her team of YPs for the significant contribution they have made over the past 12 months through their various activities, in growing awareness

amongst the next generation of leaders regarding the benefits of being associated with the GNZCC. Over time, we expect this will lead to greater Member retention in the future and a broader Membership base.

Speaking of Membership, your Chamber welcomed 24 new members in 2019 bringing the total number of Members, after resignations, to 266. On that basis, we continue to have one of the strongest Chamber Memberships in the country and certainly the strongest Membership base amongst all EU trade organisations here in New Zealand.

In respect of our 2019 financial year results, you will find a copy of the audited Statement of Financial Performance in your Handout. Our Treasurer, Mark Loveday, will present the audited financial statements in more detail shortly.

But before that, I would like to invite our CEO, Monique Surges, to say a few words from her perspective regarding the work undertaken by your Chamber (specifically by her and her team) over the past year, both pre and post Covid.

## CEO REPORT 2020

Thank you, Jim. Our research and consulting services division -ably lead by our newly appointed Deputy Executive Officer, Christy Carter - finished with a 50% growth year on year in enquiries, attributed to the revamped service offering for companies requiring specific market access assistance, whether in NZ or in Germany.

Trade Fair representation, managed by Sandy Motion and me, remained a mainstay of the Chamber income and new contact growth, with an additional contract being signed for the



*global economic impacts. Those challenges will be different for individual Members.*

*I want to assure you that your Chamber will be here to support you no matter what. Our forward-looking focus will continue to be on delivering a broad range of high-quality services to you, our Members; services that are valued by you, are appreciated by you and hopefully make a positive difference for you and your respective businesses.*

*The immediate future not only comes with its challenges, it also comes with significant opportunities and your Chamber intends to leverage those opportunities to their maximum extent. Of course, both the German and the New Zealand economies have been hit hard by the current global pandemic. However, both economies are widely expected to recover faster than many others and your Chamber has a role to play in ensuring our Members benefit from the opportunities that those economic recoveries offer.*

*In Germany, for example, major stimulus packages are already underway as part of their economic recovery program, that provide new trade opportunities for New Zealand exporters. We want to tap into that and support our NZ export-oriented Members' growth aspirations.*

*In that regard, as recently announced in the media your Chamber has appointed a highly respected and well-connected New Zealand business leader and global exporter to the role of our inaugural Honorary Patron. Sir William Gallagher is CEO and second-generation owner of the iconic family-owned Waikato manufacturing and engineering business, the Gallagher Group. Gallagher export to more than 150 countries worldwide, including of course to Germany. As our Patron, Sir William*

*will work alongside your Chamber Board and Management to raise the profile of trading with Germany, including providing advocacy and support for the already mentioned EU-NZ Free Trade Agreement within the halls of power in Wellington. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sir William for accepting this Honorary Patron appointment and for agreeing to lend his name and his considerable acumen and experience to the Chamber. We are fortunate indeed to have him on our team.*

*Also, by way of thanks. As you know, none of the events and activities organised by the Chamber throughout the year can take place without the involvement and financial support of our Partners. So, I would like to formally record our sincere appreciation and ongoing thanks to our Premium Partners: Hesketh Henry, HSBC, Stihl and Volkswagen and also to our Executive Partners: Audi, DHL, DEKRA-VTNZ, Lufthansa, ATP Business World Travel and Western Union.*

*The Executive Board met formally five times throughout the year and a subcommittee of the Board met twice to discuss the feasibility of creating a high-profile German Festival, originally planned for September 2020 but now deferred at least until next year due to the current uncertainties posed by Covid-19.*

*I would especially like to thank my fellow colleagues on the Executive Board for their support and their commitment over the past 12 months and for their valuable individual and collective contributions to the ongoing success of the Chamber.*

*We also greatly appreciate and thank Häfele, our hosts today, for their hospitality which is very much appreciated.*

<b>GNZCC Subscriptions:</b>	<b>2019 Rate GST excl.</b>
individual person	<b>\$365</b>
companies with fewer than 31 employees	<b>\$490</b>
companies with more than 31 employees	<b>\$675</b>
companies based in Europe	<b>€255</b>

There was no discussion.

Jim Bibby proposes on behalf of the Executive that the subscription rates of 2019 are retained. This was seconded by Barbara Nebel and carried by all.

#### *ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS*

Chief Executive Officer, Monique Surges, conducted this section of the meeting. Executive Board members were thanked for their time and effort provided - all on a non-fee basis. In accordance with the rules, a number of nominations for the 2020/2021 year were received in writing along with nominations for all existing Executive Committee members

- Patrick Gottstein, formerly representing DB Schenker New Zealand stepped down during the last term.
- Additional nominations have been received for
  - Karen Zwissler, SAP
  - Thomas van Raamsdonk, ProClima

The 2020/2021 Executive Committee is:

President: Jim Bibby, Stihl NZ Limited

Vice Pres: Grant Bevin, ATP Business World Travel

Treasurer: Mark Loveday, Transfer Pricing and Tax Solutions Limited

Executive Director: Monique Surges, GNZCC

Committee:

Erich Bachmann, Hesketh Henry, Imm. Past Pres.

Chris Griggs, Barristers.comm  
 Chris McCagney, Hellmann Worldwide Log.  
 Dean Sheed, European Motor Distributors  
 Mike Walsh, Vehicle Testing NZ  
 Andrew Spicer, Realtech New Zealand  
 Andreas Modlmayer, BMW Group New Zealand  
 John Barclay, HSBC  
 Bastian von Streit, T&G Global Ltd  
 Barbara Nebel, thinkstep NZ Ltd  
 Karen Zwissler, SAP NZ Ltd  
 Thomas van Raamsdonk, ProClima NZ Ltd

*The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.*

#### *GENERAL BUSINESS*

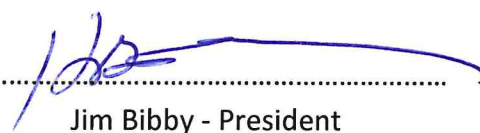
Monique advises members that it has been decided to cancel the 2019 Oktoberfest, as this is not an appropriate event to be running under the present circumstances.


There is no further general business.

Jim Bibby thanked members for their attendance and encouraged them to stay and enjoy the Häfele hospitality.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 5.20pm, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

{a special thank you to Aesthetikonzzept and Peter Salter Hairdressing for their contributions to the treasure hunt)

  
 Jim Bibby - President

  
 Mark Loveday - Treasurer