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Kia ora and hello!

A very happy new year to all our members. The [NZGBA team](#) enjoyed much-needed holidays with friends and families to recharge our batteries. Especially as 2017 has already seen us move into a new cloud-based IT system and rearrange our office furniture, to squeeze in a further desk!

With that behind us, we can look to the year ahead. Our events calendar is beginning to fill up, with dates now fixed for:

- Annual General Meeting 28th June
- German Pavilion @ BuildNZ 25th-27th June
- Annual Oktoberfest@Shed10 15th September

It also promises to be an interesting year politically, not least due to the German federal elections on 24 September 2017 and New Zealand's General Election on 23 September 2017.

Looking back at 2016, it was good to see the German economy performed better than predicted with growth of 1.9%. The number of people in employment in Germany will hit a record 43.8 million this year, with another 320,000 joining the workforce – thanks to the hardworking *Mittelstand*: German family-run businesses.

Happy reading!

Monique Surges
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand-German Business Association

German economy sizzles, turns in "rock solid" performance in 2016

Germany posted its strongest economic growth in five years in 2016, producing a

fresh budget surplus that Berlin plans to use to cut national debt. Gross domestic product (GDP) for Europe's biggest economy came in at the top end of analysts' forecasts, expanding by 1.9 per cent in 2016, following a surge in consumer spending and government support for refugees, the Federal statistics Office (Destatis) said on Thursday. [MORE...](#)

Audi partners with NZ's first electric hybrid car sharing service

NZGBA member Audi New Zealand have partnered with Wellington start-up car sharing company Mevo to deliver New Zealand's first electric hybrid car sharing service in Wellington with Audi e-tron plug-in electric hybrid vehicles. "We are very pleased to be partnering with Mevo as it aligns with Audi New Zealand's progressive strategy to be at the forefront of electric mobility services in New Zealand and it is a great way for us to showcase e-tron® vehicles," said Dean Sheed, General Manager at Audi New Zealand. An ambitious expansion plan around Wellington and Auckland for the next twelve months is in place.



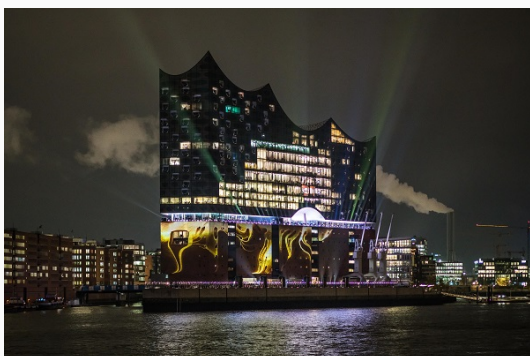
Dean Sheed (General Manager of Audi NZ), Erik Zydervelt (Co-founder & CEO of Mevo) and Mr Thiedemann (German Ambassador)



Photos: Luke Calder Photography

Elbphilharmonie officially opened

A ceremony and inaugural concert marked the official opening of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg on 11 January. Dubbed by The Guardian as "Germany's latest austerity-defying architectural bobby-dazzler", the concert hall is the new musical heart of the northern German metropolis. Guests included German Federal President Joachim Gauck and German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, as well as numerous other high-ranking representatives from the worlds of politics and culture.



Grand opening of Elbphilharmonie outdoor light display. Photo: Ralph Larmann



Ceremonial act Grand Hall. Photo: Michael Zapf

In short...

► **VOLKSWAGEN BEATS TOYOTA IN 2016 GLOBAL CAR SALES** German car maker Volkswagen sold more vehicles globally than Japanese rival Toyota Motor in 2016, taking the crown as the world's largest car maker for the first time, results showed on Monday. [MORE...](#)

► **CROWN PRINCESS OF TONGA LAUNCHES FIRST SOLAR POWERED TUK TUKS** The initiative was funded through a partnership between Kirchner Solar Group, the biggest installer in Germany, and the local Solar Island Technology (SIT) Ltd. [MORE...](#)

► **10 FAUX PAS TO AVOID IN GERMANY** Want to fit in in Germany? Then you'd better find out from the Deutsche Welle when to wish someone happy birthday and how to light your cigarette. [MORE...](#)

Our Premium Partners



New Members

We are very pleased to announce that Allianz are now partnering with the NZGBA as a Premium Partner. Our Premium Partners are committed to supporting the New Zealand German Business Association at the highest level. Find out more about our Premium Partners on [our website](#).

A warm welcome to our latest new members!

- McPherson's Housewares
- Fresenius Kabi
- GP Papenburg Maschinenbau GmbH
- Syft Technologies Ltd
- Endeavour Capital Limited

More information on our members can be found on [our website](#).

Events

CEO Summit

► 04/05/17, Langham Hotel Auckland
More than 200 CEOs, MDs and Country Managers attended the 2016 edition of the CEO Summit as Conference NZ shone the light on some of the key issues affecting leaders of New Zealand businesses and the environment in which they operate. This year, the NZGBA will be hosting two tables at the Summit - so there only is a limited number of spaces

Trade Fairs

More information on each show can be found on [our website](#). [Contact us](#) for pre-show assistance, setting up meetings or on-site support!

NEW ZEALAND TRADE FAIRS

buildnz | designex Auckland

► 25/06-27/06/2017, Auckland
Building on our success at previous trade shows since 2011, the NZGBA is once again organising a "Made in Germany" Pavilion at New Zealand's largest building and construction trade event. Contact [Sandy Motion](#) to secure the remaining space.

SouthMACH

► 24/05-25/05/2017, Christchurch

GERMAN TRADE FAIRS

Enforce Tac Nuremberg

► 01/03/-02/03/2017, Nuremberg

IWA OutdoorClassics Nuremberg

► 03/03/-06/03/2017, Nuremberg

ITB Berlin

► 08/03/-12/03/2017, Berlin

embedded world Nuremberg

► 14/03/-16/03/2017, Nuremberg

Wasser Berlin International

available! Register now to secure your spot and profit from our special discount. Please [contact Sandy](#) for bookings or questions.

► 28/03/-31/03/2017, Berlin

[European Coatings Show Nuremberg](#)

► 04/04/-06/04/2017, Nuremberg

[conhIT Berlin](#)

► 25/04/-27/04/2017, Berlin

Do you have a **position or internship to fill** and would welcome applicants with a German background? [Fill out the job listing](#) form on our website before Monday, 23 February and it will also appear in our next German newsletter. [Get in touch](#) if you need technical assistance!

EU Chambers' Events

[Charity Cruise Lunch](#)

Dutch Business Association

► 14/02/2017, On board *MS Noordam* at Queens Wharf, Auckland

[Waste treatment and recycling technologies for waste management, waste reduction and environment protection](#)

Polish New Zealand Business Association

► 17/02/2017, 56 Wakefield Street, Auckland

[FNZCCI Annual Petanque Tournament 2017](#)

French New Zealand Chamber of Commerce

► 23/02/2017, Salisbury Reserve, Herne Bay

Members' News

[Change of MD at JEAN MÜLLER](#)

After almost five years with JEAN MUELLER New Zealand, Managing Director David Labrook has left to work for JEAN MUELLER in the UAE. Mark Ellerton took over as Managing Director on 1st January 2017. For more information or to order the latest catalogue, click [here](#).

Do you have a **company anniversary** coming up that we could mention in our newsletter? Please [get in touch](#) to let us know!

Giveaways for NZGBA Members



Pro clima have a fantastic giveaway for the South Pacific Passive House Conference (Christchurch, 3 - 5 March 2017). You can win one of two packages, valued at \$750. Each package includes:

- 1 x SPPHC2017 two-day Conference ticket
- 1 x SPPHC2017 Gala Dinner ticket



Toni Erdmann opens in NZ cinemas on February 16 after a very successful debut at the NZ International Film Festival. It's an original, exceptionally well-reviewed German comedy about a strained father-daughter relationship - it is both hysterically funny and deeply moving. You can view the trailer [here](#).

The NZGBA have ten cinema tickets for *Toni Erdmann* and five German-language films (with English subtitles!) on DVD to give away. [Enter here](#) by **Thursday 16th February**.

Our Executive Partners



Recent Events



LSG Sky Chefs tour

Twenty of our members were treated to an exclusive tour of LSG Sky Chefs' state-of-the-art facility, where we learnt just how tricky it is to produce 17-25,000 tasty meals a day. More photos can be found [on our Flickr account](#).

Photos: Susanne Loesser, [Still and Moving Pictures](#)



Open Ship event: German research vessel SONNE

The German research vessel SONNE, currently carrying out scientific cruises in the New Zealand marine environment, called port in Auckland at the end of January 2017. More than 1,600 visitors flocked to the ship to find out about current New Zealand-German marine research cooperation and admire one of the most modern multi-functional science vessels in the world.

More photos from the evening reception hosted by the German Embassy Wellington and Captain Lutz Mallon can be found [on our Flickr account](#).

Photos: Susanne Loesser, [Still and Moving Pictures](#)



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