



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 28TH JUNE 2017

German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (GCC) President Jim Bibby welcomed members to the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. A quorum was confirmed and the meeting commenced at 5.30pm.

## APOLOGIES

A list of apologies was made available to all attendees and no additional apologies were recorded. Mark Harrison moved that the apologies be accepted and this was seconded by Erich Bachmann. Carried by all.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 33<sup>RD</sup> AGM

Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 were approved by the Executive Committee as a true and accurate record and were made available to members via the website. Additional copies were on hand at the meeting on request. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

[CEO Note: it was discovered whilst writing these minutes that the numbering sequence was incorrect in the 2016 Minutes – 33<sup>rd</sup> & 32<sup>nd</sup> meetings]

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

*It is my great pleasure to present this report to Members, which relates to our 2016 calendar year events, activities and financial results.*

*Firstly, I want to acknowledge all Members present here today and thank you for your interest and your support, not only of this AGM, but also for your ongoing support of our various events throughout the year in review.*

*I would also like to acknowledge our newly appointed German Ambassador to New Zealand, Gerhard Thiedemann. As you may know, Ambassador Thiedemann is the successor to former Ambassador Dr Ann-Marie Schleich whom many of you will have met in recent years at one event or another. On behalf of all Members I would like to formally*

*welcome Ambassador Thiedemann to our country and wish him well in his new posting. Likewise, we thank former Ambassador Dr Schleich for her support of the organisation and wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement in Singapore.*

*Our management and staff were kept busy throughout the year hosting various VIPs from Germany and running a number of important events; notable amongst these were:*

- A 2 day visit in December of Bundestag President, Professor Lammert, which culminated in an interesting and informative dinner and round-table discussion here in Auckland on topical matters within politics, economics and international trade.*
  - A series of networking events for Members and clients, such as the Member visit to a "Passive House" in East Auckland, a private viewing of the latest Lifeswap video introduced by its young creators, a visit to and tour of a Hamburg Sued vessel at Ports of Auckland, a BuildNZ Canterbury exhibitors evening with Ambassador Thiedemann as our guest speaker*
  - A series of educational workshops throughout New Zealand covering topics of interest to Members, including the ever popular "Negotiating with Germans", Directors Risk, Exporting to Germany and Employment Law.*
- In addition, as a part of our energy efficiency in buildings project focus we hosted German delegates interested in entering the NZ market and conducted a series of 3 innovation seminars at our universities in Auckland and Wellington.*

*And of course the highlight of the NZGBA's social calendar, the corporate Oktoberfest held in September at Shed 10 with just on 500 revellers, which is a record attendance. Well done to you all!*

*These are just some of the more visible highlights in terms of events in which the organisation was*



involved. Of course none of these activities detracted the Team from undertaking their usual tasks which include dealing with trade enquiries, producing the extremely informative regular electronic newsletters, publishing the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of "Double the Vision" and generally looking after the interests of Members and other stakeholders.

Our success is underlined by the fact that we welcomed 32 new members in 2016 (23 in 2015) and with over 230 Members we can continue to claim to have the strongest membership base amongst EU trade organisations in New Zealand - a real credit to the effectiveness of the team.

Significant progress in developing our profile as an important participant in the bilateral trading relationship between New Zealand and Germany has been made in the past two years. We continue to remind our politicians, diplomats and government officials here in New Zealand at every opportunity of the fact that, despite their propensity to publicly highlight the importance and size of our bi-lateral trade with China and with our nearest neighbour "across the ditch, at just over \$20 billion in 2016, the EU is still New Zealand's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest bilateral trading partner. At the heart of that bilateral trading volume is the engine room: Germany which you can see the trade statistics for in your handout.

So, our relationships within the New Zealand Government at the highest levels continue to be fostered and have been broadened to a significant extent. This will undoubtedly grow even further as progress with NZ's proposed Free Trade Agreement with the EU ramps up.

The speaker participation of Trade Minister Todd McClay at the bi-annual Asia Pacific Conference of German Business in Hong Kong in November last year highlights the importance of Germany, within the EU, to the NZ Government. We also enjoy a strong relationship with the New Zealand and German Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as their respective embassies in Berlin and in Wellington. All of this also assists us greatly in growing our profile as a key organisation in the bilateral trading relationship between our two countries.

Moving on to our financial results, Treasurer Mark Loveday will cover the audited financial statements

in more detail shortly. However, I am pleased to report the audited result for 2016 shows a small surplus (of \$985), meaning that in 2016 we were able to live within our means. The organisation, as always, operates on a very tight budget, in my view continues to "punch above its weight" and achieve outstanding results, which is a tribute to our CEO Monique Surges and her talented, motivated and committed staff, which is sincerely appreciated and certainly not taken for granted. Thank you!

At this stage I would also like to thank my fellow colleagues on the Executive Committee for their support and for their valuable individual and collective contributions to the ongoing success of the Association. I would especially like to thank:

- Mark Loveday who took up the Treasurer reins in 2016 from our long-time former Treasurer, Robert Knox. Mark has ensured the Executive Committee received timely and accurate information as to our financial status throughout the year
- Our Past President, Erich Bachmann, for his support and encouragement of me in my first term as President and for his ongoing high level involvement in supporting NZGBA and its Members in his role as Immediate Past President. Erich thank you!

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution Harald Hamster of T&G Global and Steve Martin of Enterprise Recruitment who stepped down from the Executive Committee during the year due to job transfer.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and premium partners; notably BMW through their **Auckland City BMW** dealership, **Stihl**, **DB Schenker**, **Hesketh Henry**, **Allianz** and our executive members Lufthansa and DHL. We are very much aware of the fact that none of the events organised by the Association during the year could have taken place without our sponsors so, thank you most sincerely for your ongoing support.

Tonight we also greatly appreciate and thank Andreas Ernst of Mercedes Benz Financial & Mercedes Benz, our hosts for the evening, for their wonderful hospitality which is very much appreciated.



*Looking forward, 2017 will be no doubt be another interesting year and, with elections looming in both Germany and in New Zealand, a potentially uncertain one in terms of the short-term outlook for our two countries. That said, based on the strong foundations already laid, I am extremely optimistic about the future of the German-New Zealand business relationship and the ongoing role our Organisation plays in that, in support of you - our Members.*

*Thank you.*

There was no additional discussion relating to items contained in the report. The report was moved by Joanne Hand and seconded by Erich Bachmann.

The Presidents report was accepted and carried by all.

## **ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2016**

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 were made available prior to the meeting via the website; copies of the key pages were also included in the handout. GCC Treasurer, Mr. Mark Loveday confirmed there was a net surplus after tax of NZD 985, resulting in accumulated funds as at 31 December 2016 of NZD 61,984. He elaborated on the accounts reminding Members, that as a non-profit entity with partial funding from Germany, it was important that revenues be generated from other activities to ensure a break even result at year end. In comparison to the 2015 accounts both revenue and expenditure were down – this can be attributed in particular to the energy project itemised under Trade service fees [Project phase 2: the conference occurred in Australia rather than New Zealand]

There being no questions Mark Loveday moved that the financial accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 be adopted. This was seconded by Mark Harrison.

The financial report was accepted and carried by all.

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Mark Loveday advised that Crowe Horwarth has been auditing the accounts for some years and moved that they be appointed as auditor for the year 2017. This was seconded by Grant Bevin. Appointment of Crowe Horwarth as auditor carried by all.

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The NZGBA executive committee considers that the membership subscriptions require a slight adjustment upwards in order to offset unavoidable cost increases in overheads, whilst we aim to continue to deliver a break-even financial result for the Association. Jim Bibby proposes the following adjustment of 5% rounded:

	<b>New Rate as at 1 July 2017 GST exclusive</b>
<b>NZGBA Subscriptions:</b>	
individual person (non-member rates for events)	<b>\$340</b>
companies with fewer than 31 employees	<b>\$460</b>
companies with more than 31 employees	<b>\$630</b>
companies based in Europe	<b>€240</b>

The revised subscription rates were seconded by Gary Ivory and carried by all.

## **CHANGE OF NAME RESOLUTION**

Jim Bibby explains to the membership that there has been discussion for some time about the name of the organisation and the need to upgrade Business Association to Chamber of Commerce. Even Chancellor Merkel commented on this during her visit in 2014. Permission was sought and given by DIHK (Association of German Chambers of Commerce in Berlin) and BMWi (German Federal Ministry of Economics Affairs and Energy) to revise the english name, and members are now asked in turn to approve such name change.

Jim Bibby proposes:

That the name of the Association be changed from New Zealand German Business Association (Incorporated) to **German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)** and that the Rules of the Association be changed as set out below with effect from the date of completion of registration



formalities with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies:

1. By deleting the existing clause 1.1 and inserting the following new clause in its place: "1.1 The name of the Association shall be GERMAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (INCORPORATED)."
2. By deleting the definition of "Association" in clause 2.1 and inserting the following new definition in its place: "'Association' means German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated)."

Discussion amongst members centred on the fact the sequence was being changed from New Zealand-German to German-New Zealand – it was explained that this was how German Chambers around the world were named, i.e. always German and then the country of office location.

Erich Bachmann seconded the proposal and a resounding "aye" came from the members.

The resolution to change the name to German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Inc was carried.

## *ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS*

Chief Executive Officer, Monique Surges, conducted this section of the meeting. In accordance with the rules, a number of nominations were received in writing.

The following new nominations were received: Christopher Griggs (Barristers.comm) and Mike Walsh (VTNZ) and the following executives stepped down: Steve Martin (Enterprise Recruitment) and Harald Hamster (T&G Global Ltd).

Executive Committee members were thanked for their time and effort provided during 2016/2017 - all on a non-fee basis which included a full days commitment to the strategy day held in 2016.

The newly elected 2017/2018 Executive Committee is as follows:

President: Jim Bibby, Stihl NZ Limited  
Vice Pres: Grant Bevin, Business World Travel  
Treasurer: Mark Loveday, EY  
Executive Dir.: Monique Surges, GNZCC  
Past President: Erich Bachmann, Hesketh Henry

Executive Committee:

Christopher Griggs, Barristers.comm  
Joanne Hand, Realtech Ltd  
Mark Harrison, Schenker (NZ) Ltd  
Wolfgang Loose, T&G Global Ltd  
Chris McCagney, Hellmann Worldwide Log.  
Florian Renndorfer, BMW Group NZ  
Dean Sheed, European Motor Distributors  
Mike Walsh, VTNZ

*The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> July at Audi NZ.*

## *GENERAL BUSINESS*

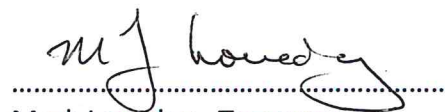
There was no general business tabled for consideration at this meeting.

Jim Bibby thanked members for their attendance and encouraged them to stay and enjoy the Mercedes cars and view the displays by member companies Enterprise Recruitment, Business World Travel and ProClima Hub.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 5.57pm



Jim Bibby – President  
28<sup>th</sup> June 2017



Mark Loveday - Treasurer