



Minutes for the Annual General Meeting, 10th June 2014

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand German Business Association commenced at 5:04 pm.

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 Mr Paul Ravlich was recorded.

Accepted by Mr Ian Gibson, seconded by Robert Knox. The apologies were accepted and carried by all.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mr Erich Bachmann advised that the minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting held on the 29th of May 2013 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 (www.germantrade.co.nz) under events, for all members to read. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mr Erich Bachmann presented the following report to the meeting using a power point display.

As President of the NZGBA it is my task to make each year sound more exciting than the last... in a brief succinct report, covering not only the activities the NZGBA has undertaken

in the past year, but also to touch 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 milestone year for the NZGBA– 30 years since its foundation. In this time the NZGBA has grown and maintained a strong presence, may I say even dominant presence, amongst the European representations here in New Zealand.

Although China has become a very important trading partner for New Zealand, taking over the number one spot from Australia, it should be remembered that Europe is New Zealand's third largest trading partner and Germany is Europe's largest economy.

As per Statistics New Zealand, the 2013 bi-lateral trade between New Zealand and Germany amounted to some 2.9 billion NZD.

From a German perspective there is still a lot to be done to balance the trade relationship with New Zealand needing to increase their export of products to Germany.

It is pleasing to note that imports from Germany have increased again over the past year and look likely to do so again. The strong NZD purchasing power makes the good quality higher priced "made in Germany" products accessible and with the building boom in particular many German companies stand to make good sales in New Zealand in the coming years.

Exports to Germany have declined slightly – is this a consequence of the constant focus here on China? We cannot say.

The 5 year wine strategy NZTE has implemented is not showing up in the statistics yet but we are hopeful that the take up of good NZ wine will happen in the coming years. Companies such as Icebreaker and Fisher & Paykel Healthcare report positive growth in the German market and there are many other NZ exporters flying under the radar doing excellent business in the centrally located Germanic market.

Now I would like to turn 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 2013 is a slight loss of \$ 4,251.

In terms of membership numbers, the Association welcomed 35 new members in 2013. This compares with 24 new members in 2012. With resignations at 31 for the 2013 year we can record a slight increase in membership yet again. With our 220 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 packed with events, for both members and clients as you can see from the displayed list.

Some I would like to highlight are;

- *Workshop series - in Christchurch (7/5), Auckland (9/5), Nelson(13/6)*
- *BuildNZ Networking evening – 24th June (23-25th BuildNZ)*
- *Negotiating with Germans workshop with follow on event German Perception of NZ/NZers – 25 Sept 2013*
- *Renewable Energy Fact-finding mission – 23-27 Sept, Germany*
- *And last but definitely not least the 30th Jubilee Gala Dinner (1 Nov).*

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our sponsors for their generous support of the NZGBA's events throughout the year. 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.

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank to our CEO, Monique Surges and her trusty right hand lady Sabrina Schulte who makes sure the money comes in before it goes back out. Also, a thank you to Eva Huebner and Doris Evans for their long standing dedication. In 2013 we sadly bid farewell to Kathrin Curtis (nee Reichel) and Oliver Rube, however we are delighted to welcome new team members Helen Stoehr and Anne Schettler – keep up the good work and we look forward to your positive influence.

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 Mr Ian Gibson and seconded by Robert Knox.

ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2013

The financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2013 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 although there was a loss of \$4,251 for the 2013 year, there was a cash surplus of approximately \$13,500 after adding back depreciation.

He further highlighted: *"The membership fees only contribute 12% of the overall revenue of the NZGBA, all other revenue is generated through Monique's team efforts, in particular the annual Oktoberfest and energy efficiency initiatives."*

There being no questions relating to the financial statements Mr. Robert Knox moved that the financial accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013 be adopted. This was seconded by Ms Nina Englert and carried by all.

Appointment of auditor

The Treasurer moved that Crowe Horwath (previously known as WHK Gosling Chapman) be appointed as auditor for the year 2014. This motion was seconded by Mr Grant Bevin and carried by all.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mr. Erich Bachmann informed members that the NZGBA executive committee considered a 2% vs 5% upward adjustment of the membership subscriptions as per members request for gradual increases rather than one off large increases. It was decided that a midway increase would be appropriate.

The proposed membership subscriptions:

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

Mr Robert Knox seconded the increase of 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:

- *Capt John Robinson*, who has served for a long time and is now slowly moving into retirement
- *Inesa Ragele*, from DB Schenker who filled in until a new managing director was firmly established
- *Ian Gibson* from Team McMillan who has handed over to Nina Englert, the new Managing Director of BMW New Zealand Ltd.

The full list of nominations for the 2014/2015 Executive Committee is as follows:

- Erich Bachmann, Hesketh Henry, as President
- Robert Knox, BDO Spicers, as Treasurer
- Grant Bevin, Business World Travel, as Vice President
- Dean Sheed, Audi - European Motors
- Dr. Holger Detje , Bayer New Zealand
- Jim Bibby, Stihl NZ Ltd
- Joanne Hand, Realtech NZ Ltd
- Mark Harrison, Schenker NZ Ltd
- Mark Loveday, EY
- Nigel Smith, Wallenius Ships Services Ltd
- Nina Englert, BMW New Zealand Ltd
- Paul Ravlich, Siemens NZ Ltd
- Dr. Philipp Wahl, Turners & Growers
- Stephen Diver, SDR Ltd

The first meeting as the new executive committee is scheduled for the 26th June 2014.

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 30th Annual General Meeting closed at 5:24pm and invited members for drinks and nibbles.