



President's Report 2024 | KELLIE TWIGGE- Chamber President

NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM, SEPTEMBER 2024

YEAR OVERVIEW

Kia ora,

It's been another big year for the Chamber, with growing membership and continued support from our sponsors and partners, enabling us to deliver a diverse array of events that connect our broad and active community.

Over the past 12 months, we've had the pleasure of hosting or co-hosting more than 20 in-person events, including our 40th Birthday Gala, the Waitangi Day Family Festival, and yet another sold-out International Women's Day celebration. The latter featured our NZ Inc leaders: High Commissioner Gabrielle Rush, Defence Advisor Shauna Graham, and Trade Commissioner Maggie Christie. A special thank you to our Premier Sponsor, ANZ, for their support in making this event a success, which has elevated our women's network to new heights. We also had the privilege of connecting our sponsors and members with visiting ministers, including the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Hon. Christopher Luxon, and offered multiple business, networking, and social events for professional growth.

Broadening our community is vital to the Chamber's sustainability and has created new opportunities for both our members and sponsors. This year, we focused on community growth by co-hosting events and collaborating with various organisations, including ANZA, The Australian High Commission and Defence force, and other Chambers such as the Australian, Irish, Canadian, and South African Chambers. We also partnered with both Singapore and New Zealand-based business entities, such as Walker & Co Realty, Drew & Napier, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CAANZ), the ASEAN New Zealand Business Council (ANZBC), and regionally with the New Zealand ASEAN Business Alliance (NZABA). Additionally, we supported visiting Kiwi talent, working with several performing arts and sports organisations, promoting performers, artists, and sportspeople passing through Singapore.

In a busy world with many events on offer, the Chamber continues to strive to **deliver something different**. Our difference is our strength, and we pursue excellence by carefully planning a diverse range of events that cover relevant topics, feature engaging speakers, and take place at unique venues. Importantly, we understand the value of providing cost-effective options for our members, offering a total of ten "**free for members**" events this year.

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Our **MĀIA women's network** has seen significant growth this year, with the Chamber supporting four events — our biggest year yet. The New Year Kick-off Networking event, held in the beautiful Fisher & Paykel Showroom, thanks to Mark and his team, has been a highlight for many with some great whiskey and chocolate tasting in partnership with New Zealand drinks distributor Spirited. This was followed by our annual International Women's Day celebration, an evening with Minister Erica Stanford, and a recent social networking event at Publico. Stay tuned for our upcoming Women in Tech event, with more details coming soon!

This vibrant group of Kiwi women is passionate about building a supportive community focused on leadership, career development, diversity, and inclusion. A big thank you to the committed working group who volunteer their time including our chair Danica Burke, offering a welcoming network for those new to Singapore and a connective space for like-minded women.

As a not-for-profit organisation, our success is made possible by the continued support of our sponsors and key stakeholders. We are proud to offer valuable sponsorship opportunities and visibility to our partners, and we are grateful for the retention of most of our sponsors again this year. Special thanks to our Premier Sponsors — **ANZ, Australian International School, and Air New Zealand** — for their unwavering support, allowing us to provide exceptional experiences for our members that would otherwise be impossible.

We also extend our gratitude to our long-term **Silver Sponsors**, including **Bankside Chambers, Fonterra, Fisher & Paykel, Singapore American School, Synergy Wealth, and Nexus**. These sponsors continue to support us in various ways, and we appreciate their commitment to exploring mutually beneficial opportunities.

Our **NZ Inc** family is our closest ally, and we value the ongoing support of **New Zealand Trade and Enterprise** and the **New Zealand High Commission**. High Commissioner Gabby Rush and her dedicated team, including MFAT, Trade and Enterprise, Defence, Tourism, and Education departments, consistently go above and beyond to collaborate with and promote the Chamber. Their contributions are deeply valued. I'd also like to thank James Clarke for chairing the ABA board this year on behalf of the Chamber.

Finally, to our loyal and engaged members: **thank you** for your continued involvement, suggestions, and support. Your participation makes everything we do worthwhile. With membership rising and event registrations remaining steady, we have connected with thousands of you over the past year. As we grow, the Chamber remains committed to delivering more business and networking initiatives, promoting our partners and people, and creating opportunities for you to maintain and strengthen your connection with New Zealand and our community. We look forward to hearing your insights and ideas!

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WHO WE ARE

Our vision is to be a vibrant New Zealand hub in Singapore.

Our purpose is to foster a community of people and businesses in Singapore who are interested in and connected to New Zealand.

This is underpinned by four strategic objectives, to:

Connect: Provide a connection and a community for people interested in New Zealand

Promote: Promote and showcase the interests of our members, stakeholders, and our community

Grow: Provide personal and professional growth and development opportunities for our members and their businesses

Sustain: Ensure the long-term sustainability of the Chamber

EVENT OVERVIEW

Last year saw us deliver more than 20 events, spanning a wide-ranging assortment of interests and objectives. Our three signature events still draw sell-out attendances, being our Annual Ball/Gala held in November, Waitangi Day in February, and International Women's Day in March.

Each month the Chamber connected members and promoted businesses via an array of social and business networking events, in some cases co-shared with other chambers, alternating between breakfast networking options or post-work drinks, and where possible- sponsored, providing value for members and sponsors alike.

Networking Events

"Breakfast with the Board": Join the Chamber Board and fellow members, connecting over breakfast, building networks, and sharing experiences

"End of year Chamber Drinks": Celebrate the Year end with the Chamber Community @ Moley Malones

"Cross-Chamber New Year Networking Drinks": Start the new year in a great company, broaden your networks, and connect with new and old chamber friends.

"MAIA- New Year Kick-off community connector": Whiskey, Gin, and Cheese tasting, thanks to Fisher & Paykel and New Zealand drinks distributor Spirited

"Cross-Chamber Mid- Summer Networking Mixer": Summer Sips & Global Connections, co-hosted with Irish, Canadian, and South African Chambers.

"Breakfast with Champions": Featuring Ben Herring, in partnership with Singapore Rugby Union

"New Members Breakfast" Meet and connect with fellow new members, build relationships and expand your professional network.

"MAIA- Mid Year networking and connecting": Ladies night @ Publico

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Business, Personal Growth and informative events

“NZ ASEAN F&B Industry Conference 2023”: How and Why Southeast Asia Can Fuel Your Future Growth.

An NZABA Hybrid Conference where speakers from New Zealand and across ASEAN presented both in person and virtually from Kuala Lumpur.

“Green Walk Series”: Sustainability Tours (x 2). Thanks to ANZ and MBS, guests embarked on a behind-the-scenes adventure discovering various initiatives the iconic hotel has implemented to minimize its environmental footprint and champion sustainable tourism practices.

“Understanding MOM OnePass and Compass Framework”: Corporate member Hawksford detailed the new MOM work visa options and answered members' questions.

“Singapore Budget 2024: Key takeaways for business in Singapore”: Corporate member Hawksford explained various elements of the Singapore Budget 2024. Impacts on business: Extended loan terms, corporate tax changes, and more.

“2024 Property Projections”: Insights into the Property Implications of the NZ Government's Coalition Agreement

“Family Matters”: International Family Law for expats, thanks to Bankside Chambers

“New Zealand: the new Government, new leaders, new policies, law reform”: by Peter Vial FCA, CAANZ NZ Country Head. Supported by ANZ and Xero

“Harcourts Landed”: A New Zealand property update

Ministerial and NZ Inc Engagements

“An Evening with Hon. Erica Stanford”; Minister of Education, Minister of Immigration,

This MĀIA led event provided members the opportunity to hear from and connect with Minister Stanford, as she shared insights into her journey into politics, as well as her priorities and vision in her dual role as Minister of Education and Minister of Immigration.

“Business leaders Gala Dinner, welcoming Rt. Hon. Christopher Luxon”: New Zealand Prime Minister

During the Prime Minister’s visit, we supported NZ Inc. in delivering an exclusive Gala Dinner, where Chamber Premier and Silver sponsors and key chamber stakeholders joined prominent Business and Government delegates, hosted by High Commissioner Gabby Rush.

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Community Connections

“AIS x Chamber Waitangi Day”

Over 1500 Kiwis and friends joined us again at AIS this year, where we sampled the best of NZ food, gin, wine, produce, products and more. It was an explosion of fun, the Air New Zealand return flights were a big hit as usual, as was our favourite Kiwi band keeping us all entertained for hours. This community event is one of the biggest Kiwi gatherings in Singapore and we look forward to coming together again next year.

“International Women’s Day”: #InspireNZINclusion

This ANZ sponsored and MĀIA hosted panel discussion event, proudly showcased the remarkable Kiwi women leaders, spearheading key positions across New Zealand Inc. Held at and supported by ANZ, this annual event has cemented its spot in our calendar (and hopefully yours!)

Last year’s *“Gala event celebrated our 40th Anniversary”* in Singapore. Our Sparkling Soirée delivered something spectacular and surprising, showcasing NZ artist FLOX, musicians, Kapa haka performances, and fabulous Kiwi Food, Wine, Gin, and Whiskey. We filled our souls with dancing, fun, laughter, and memories. It was certainly a Birthday party to remember, and unquestionably *delivered something different*. Thanks again to Air New Zealand and ANZ,

“R_U_OK? day”: A conversation can change a life. In collaboration with AustCham and supported by ANZ.

“The Great New Zealand Tee Off”: Charity Golf Day.

Supporting NZ Charities Movember | Catwalk | Hope without Fear

And of course, our recent **New Zealand Chamber Ball**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have lots planned for the coming months, including a Women-in Tech event, an inter-chamber wine tasting event, a Christmas trivia night and supporting NZ Inc. as they host the annual Ambassadors Cup. We are looking at how we can build an Alumni program, and ways to support younger members with personal growth initiatives.

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SPONSORSHIP

- Premier Sponsors:** ANZ, The Australian International School and Air New Zealand continue their support of the Chamber as Premier Sponsors
- Silver Sponsors:** New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, New Zealand High Commission, Fonterra, Fisher and Paykel, Singapore American School, Nexus, Bankside Chambers, and Synergy Wealth
- Corporate Memberships:** 40+ Corporate members; adding to our long-term business members, we have seen and welcomed several new corporate members

MEMBERSHIP

Our current Membership has seen a close to 20% increase. including corporate nominees. We have built our corporate partnerships to include over 45 business partners, and this support continues to grow.

CHAMBER EXECUTIVE

This year saw some changes to our Executive team with Executive Director Tahsha Pratt stepping down after more than two years. We are super excited to have appointed Melissa Holck as our new Executive Director, coming with years of experience working at EuroCham, and living across the region for more than 15 years. Her enthusiasm and commitment in building business growth and membership satisfaction is evident already, and we can't wait to see the transformations she will execute in partnership with the board. Tahsha is remaining on to support Melissa and Carina, and the broader community for a few months.

Our Events and Marketing Manager, Carina Lim, continues to ensure that every event is delivered professionally and profitably for all stakeholders involved while maximizing guest experience. Her attention to detail and commitment to the Chamber, our members, sponsors, and the broader NZ Inc. team is well recognised and highly valued. We are so lucky to have her on our team and have her share her experience, skills, energy, and professionalism in everything she does.

We have been supported throughout the year by several volunteers, during event planning, at events, providing guidance and invaluable introductions. Such generosity and assistance reflect that of our entire community and that of the Kiwi spirit. Thank you.

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BOARD UPDATE

The NZ Chamber board continues to attract a group of high calibre individuals to the Executive Committee, all with varied backgrounds from different industries, bringing their own experience and expertise to the NZ Chamber's operations. The board role is a fully voluntary one and requires a time commitment away from professional and personal life, and I would like to thank all board members for their time.

Changes to the board over the year saw Oriana Brine step down for a period to enjoy maternity leave, allowing for the co-op'd position to be extended to Jonny Myers from Fonterra during the interim period. Standing down from the Board at this AGM are Liz McAuliffe, Paul Town, Oriana Brine, and Rebecca Assice. Thank you, your guidance and commitment to the board and our Whanau here in Singapore over the many years is deeply appreciated. Thank you to those who have nominated to join the board for the next year. We have received an overwhelming number of nine nominees vying for five positions, which we look forward to introducing you to, to vote upon at the upcoming AGM.

Those remaining in secured seats include Jocelyn Tong- Palmer, James Clark, Bruce McKenzie, Pam McIntyre and Myself.

As always please feel free to reach out to me on LinkedIn or via the chamber, it is always great to connect with our members and sponsors. Thank you all for your continued support and membership of the NZCC. The energy the chamber brings to the New Zealand community here in Singapore is significant, I personally love having a slice of heaven when far from home. I hope to see you at the AGM on the 19th!

Kel

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