



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Kellie Twigge

NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM, 29th SEPTEMBER 2022

OVERVIEW

Kia ora

It's been an exciting time to lead the Chamber over the past few months as Singapore eases COVID restrictions and re-opens its doors to the world. We settled into the COVID "normal" last year and adapted to the various ways of providing value to our members and sponsors. With our strength in bringing the community together, we continued to provide connections in the form of virtual sessions and small group in-person events and were quick to move when opportunities and restrictions allowed. The post covid environment has continued to evolve in 2022 and we've had the great pleasure of again hosting networking drinks and we're very excited about the return of the ball, a night many of us remember and are looking forward to.

We hosted several virtual and in person events across the past year with some sold-out events including two sustainability events held in November 2021 and August 2022, and our International Women's Day Conference in March 2022. We welcomed the **Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern**, Prime Minister of New Zealand, and had another informal engagement with **Christopher Luxon**. We were also pleased to host a virtual webinar beehive briefing with **Hon Damien O'Connor**.

Our **MAIA women's network** continues to convene and are working on a schedule of future events. This diverse group of women are passionate about creating a network for women to give and receive support through leadership, career development, diversity, and inclusion. Thanks to the committed group of volunteers, their presence will grow from strength to strength and continue to be a source of advocacy and knowledge sharing. We look forward to kickstarting more events in the coming months.

CONNECT. PROMOTE. GROW.



The last two and a half years, and our future viability would not be possible without the continued and unwavering **support of our sponsors and key stakeholders**. Though Sponsorship opportunities have not occurred without challenges, the Chamber has retained our key sponsors in addition to attracting new sponsors and partnerships.

Our dedicated Premier Sponsors **ANZ** and **AIS**, through their commitment to the Chamber, have enabled us to showcase our adaptability and our expert resources to deliver well attended and wide-ranging events to our members- every month. Our Silver Sponsors have grown, and along with our long-term supporters in **AAM Advisory, Fonterra, Air New Zealand, Fisher & Paykel, SAS, NZTE** and the **New Zealand High Commission**, we have welcomed on board **Morrison and Co** and **Nexus**, with more to announce soon.

2022 also saw some changes to our team with Rachel Boyle moving on and Tahsha Pratt joining the team as Executive Director. Her and Monica Portillo continue to ensure the Chamber runs smoothly, enabling events, and making the chamber a great organisation to be part of in Singapore. Also thank you to the board who have continued to bring energy and creativity throughout this challenging period; their contribution has been essential to our success-

Finally, **our loyal members**, without you our hard work and vision would not be realised. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Our cumulative attendance spanning both in-person and virtual events increased year on year, with over 2000 members interacting with the Chamber throughout the period. As we reposition and build post-covid, NZ Chamber will continue to work with and for all our stakeholders in **delivering business and networking initiatives** and creating opportunities to share your insights and hear your stories.

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THE CHAMBER

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.

Beneath this we have four strategic objectives:

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

EVENTS

The last year has seen the Chamber expand in-person events, across a breadth of interests and objectives. We look forward to the return of both of our signature events, being the Aotearoa Ball in November, and Waitangi Day in February.

Each month the Chamber hosted some form of social or networking event, an astounding feat, during stringent and changing Covid enforced SMM's.

5-a-side networking drinks: Held in September and December in 2021, and January, February, and March this year, with April allowing for our first 10-a-side, before unrestricted numbers commencing in June. These well attended events have continued monthly from June, all with the support of our networking partner The Exchange.

In addition, we partnered with Juno Gin and hosted a **Members Gin tasting event** at the High Commissioner's Residence in June.

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Across the Year we held two key **Sustainability events**, and we will continue our focus on sustainability this year.

Sustainability: At the Heart of Business Success:

November 2021

Our panel discussed where they are on their journey to becoming more resilient, embedding sustainability into their business model, and the innovative opportunities that have arisen. Attendees heard from leaders about the key opportunities and issues involved in their transition, and about how influential businesses and brands can be in improving sustainability performance and creating a transformative future.

The Drive for Decarbonisation – Moving from Intent to Collective Action: Fireside Chat with Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Grace Fu.

August 2022

Following the recent announcement of the Singapore - New Zealand new "Climate Change and Green Economy" pillar, part of the Singapore - New Zealand Enhanced Partnership, Singapore **Minister for Sustainability, Grace Fu** joined **H.E Jo Tyndall** to discuss the drive to decarbonisation and understand how intent is being translated to action. They both shared their updates, priorities, and insights.

The event then extended to engage industry leaders **Michele Lemmens**, Head of Business Sustainability & CTO APAC, Tata Consultancy Services, **Stella Saris Chow**, Head of Sustainable Finance at ANZ, **Jeremy Sutton**, Managing Director at Swire Shipping, and **Irene Yong**, Director at Beca to share their perspectives.



Several events were held across the year to support the development of our members, to share knowledge and build our community through shared experiences; these include events such as:

Navigating an Inflationary Environment:

In person event @ Swissotel, with over 60 registrations

Your Career in 2022: An insight into the jobs market in NZ and Singapore:

Webinar with over 80 registrations

The Art of Optimising your LinkedIn Profile:

Webinar with over 80 registrations

International Women's Day: Sharing the inside stories of Women leaders

#BREAKTHEBIAS: Another sold-out event, 2 weeks prior. This years United Nations theme for International Women's Day is #Breakthebias, where we heard stories of four fantastic female leaders and the challenges they have faced in their professional and personal journeys at our **Sharing the inside stories of Women Leaders** Event. Our IWD annual conference is fast becoming a key calendar highlight, and sponsors alike are keen to support and contribute.

OTHER VIRTUAL EVENTS

Supplementing out restricted in-person events with Virtual events provided our members a broad offering of **engagement and connection**.

Some of our virtual events included:

- MĀIA Virtual Speed Networking
- Life After Rugby Webinar Series: Bryan Habana and David Pocock
- The State of the New Zealand Property Market
- New Zealand Chamber Virtual Fundraiser 2021

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PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

It has been and remains a priority to promote our sponsors and partners at any opportunity, and over the course of the year, we have co-hosted and facilitated many partner events.

Some of these have included:

- **Cross-Chamber Event** hearing from ANZ Chief Economist: **Richard Yetsenga**
- **Asia New Zealand Foundation:** How does NZ see Asia in 2022? Insights from the Asia New Zealand Foundation annual survey
- **ASEAN Forum 2022:** Accelerating Towards 2023
- **AIS Sponsored Event - Equipping Learners for the Global Job Market**
- **AAM - tote bag colouring competition** to celebrate Waitangi Day

And finally, it was a pleasure to celebrate as a community, **Matariki**- at the High Commissioner's Residence, with the broader NZ community here in Singapore.

SPONSORSHIP

Premier Sponsors

ANZ and Australian International School (AIS)

Silver Sponsors:

Fonterra, Air New Zealand, AAM Advisory, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Fisher and Paykel, New Zealand High Commission, Singapore American School, Nexus and Morrison and Co

Corporate Memberships:

51 Corporate Members:

New members, adding to our long-supported group corporates include: XCL World Academy, Wiseway Logistics, Roam Digital, Pullman Singapore, Hawksford and Global One Three One

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MEMBERSHIP

Individual membership has grown to over 280, including corporate nominees. We have over 55 Corporate members/businesses and growing.

We carried out **member surveys** in December, scoring our highest NPS of 63. Thanks to all those members who responded! These surveys help us to understand the types of events you want to see, how you get your Chamber information and take on board any suggestions for improvement.

BOARD UPDATE

The NZ Chamber board continues to draw a collection of Executive Committee members of the highest calibre, from a variety of backgrounds and business sectors, each of whom brings their own experience and knowledge to the NZ Chamber's activities. I would like to thank each board member for their time, which is given voluntarily and demands time away from their work and personal lives.

Nick Lee left the position of President to pursue an opportunity in Sydney earlier this year, his leadership and direction through the COVID period has ensured we have continued to exist and provide a community for our members. Paul Town joined the board at this time and has added great value to our experienced team. It has been a pleasure to step up as President for the remainder of the balance of the year.

Standing down from the Board at this AGM is Steven Parsons (ANZ). Many thanks to Steve for his continued support and involvement. Continuing for the 2022/2023 period along with myself is Rebecca Assice, Yvonne Foo, and Stu O'Connor.

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