



President's Report 2023

KELLIE TWIGGE- Chamber President

NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGM, 21st SEPTEMBER 2023

OVERVIEW

Kia ora,

This year the chamber celebrates 40 years in Singapore! We've been here since 1983 when we started with around 50 members, a far cry from the buzzy Kiwi hub that we are today of 300+ members and sponsors. It's all of you who help create this fantastic community of people and business connected to New Zealand so Thank You, it is a privilege to be part of this journey and celebrate this milestone.

It's been an exciting time to lead the Chamber *out* of Covid times, through a full year of in person events, reconnecting with our members, and welcoming new ones into the fold, and strengthening our community after some trying times. How excellent was it to attend the quiz in person vs. virtually! It's been our pleasure to be able to host (or co-host) a diverse and exceptional calendar of more than 25 in person events over the past 12 months, including the long-anticipated return of our Aotearoa Ball and Waitangi Day event, and another sold out International Women's Day celebration, which is fast becoming a highlight for many. We introduced our members to two visiting Ministers and provided various opportunities to connect and grow at many of our business and networking events.

We have placed a focus on two areas this year: *broadening our community* and *delivering something different*. In doing so we have actively collaborated with other Chambers, including the Australian, British, French, Irish, and South African chambers, to name a few, as well as business organisations, such as Singapore Institute of Directors (SID) and Chartered Accountants Australian and New Zealand (CAANZ). Broadening our community is key to the sustainability of our Chamber and has provided our members and sponsors with a broader reach and new connections.

As Kiwis, we not only expect, but excel, in delivering something different. We over deliver, we punch above our weight and surprise others with our tenacity. We commit 100% to everything we do (here's hoping for the rugby world cup)! We have taken some different roads and will continue to offer unique experiences; from our behind-the-scenes sustainability walks, to breakfast networking, Trivia nights, and to our approach to our 40th Birthday Gala Event this year- our Sparkling Soiree, where guests should be prepared to **#ExpectSomethingDifferent**. Members can expect to see this approach continue into the year ahead.

Our MAIA women's network continues to convene and are actively 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, whose presence continues

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to go from strength to strength and are a well sought after source of advocacy and knowledge sharing. We look forward to kickstarting more events in the coming months.

As with most not-for-profit organisations, our viability would not be possible without the continued and unwavering support of our sponsors and key stakeholders. It's great to be able to provide Sponsorship opportunities again to our valued partners, and to be rewarded in the retention of most of our Sponsors and the welcoming of new Chamber supporters.

Thank you specifically to our two dedicated Premier Sponsors **AIS** and **ANZ**, for more than their commitment to the Chamber as a Sponsor, but for their keenness to collaborate on interesting and innovative events. Chamber and Event Sponsorship enables us to deliver unique opportunities to network, build connections and provide personal growth, across a wide-ranging collective of events over the last year. Our Silver Sponsors have grown, and along with our long-term supporters in **Fonterra, Air New Zealand, Fisher & Paykel, SAS, Nexus, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise**, and the **New Zealand High Commission**, we have welcomed on board **Bankside Chambers** and **Synergy Wealth**.

2022 also saw some changes to our Executive team with Events and Marketing Manager Monica Portillo moving on after more than 8 years with the chamber. Monica's commitment to our organisation and experienced event management skills ensured our members and partners were presented with professional and well organised events. Carina Lim joined us in March, replacing Monica, and has brought a fabulous energy into the team, and has already delivered some great new event formats, which have been well received. Also thank you to the board who have continued to bring energy and creativity throughout this rebuilding period, their contribution has been essential to our success.

I also hope those of you who have attended some of our events have had the chance to connect with Gabby Rush, our New Zealand High Commissioner to Singapore. We, at the chamber, very much value her support and the energy she brings to this prestigious position. Gabby leads a dedicated NZ Inc team incorporating MFAT, Trade and Enterprise, Defence, Tourism and Education, all of who we work closely and regularly with and value their support and contributions.

Finally, our engaged and loyal chamber members, without you our hard work and vision would not be realised. Thank you for your continued support, feedback, participation, and encouragement. Our event registrations have significantly increased year on year, with over 3500 registered participants interacting through chamber events this past year. As we continue to grow, the NZ Chamber will work with, and for, all our stakeholders; to deliver business and networking initiatives, promote our partners and people and create opportunities for you to maintain and evolve your connection with New Zealand, share your insights and for us to hear your 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.

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

Our Vision is to create a New Zealand Hub in Singapore by building and fostering a community of people and business in Singapore who are interested in and connected to NZ.

The last year has seen the Chamber revert to mostly in-person events, across a breadth of interests and objectives. We welcomed the return of all three of our signature events, being the Great Aotearoa Ball in November, Waitangi Day in February, and International Women's Day in March.

Each month the Chamber connected members via an array of social networking events, mixing it up this year, by incorporating breakfast networking catch ups, and sponsored networking drinks, providing value for members and sponsors alike.

We hosted several Business and Personal Growth events, including:

"Business after 5": Featuring insights from Cameron Priest, Founder & CEO, Neu Ventures and Co-Founder & CEO TradeGecko- Thanks to Nexus.

"Directing with Purpose": Board and Directorship Essentials, partnering with AustCham and CAANZ- Thanks to ANZ.

"Creating a Culture of Success": HR leaders sharing their insights and best practices on how to create a culture of success within an organisation.

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“Emerging Exports- Fresh Thinking and New Value”. NZABA Hybrid Conference where speakers from New Zealand and across ASEAN presented both in person, and virtually from Jakarta, Auckland, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok on a range of foundation and emerging business issues.

“Green walk Series” thanks to ANZ. Where guests embarked on a behind-the-scenes eco-luxury adventure discovering various hotel's pioneering initiatives to minimize its environmental footprint and champion sustainable tourism practices.

“Understanding MOM OnePass and Compass Framework”. Thanks to AIS and Hawksford. Guests heard from Immigration specialist from Hawksford about the new MOM work visa options, and answer your questions, at this town hall style event held at AIS.

Ministerial Engagements

“An evening with Hon. Dr Ayesha Verrall”; Minister for Research, Science, and Innovation; COVID-19, Seniors and Associate Minister for Health.

This MĀIA led event provided members the opportunity to hear from and connect with, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall. In this fireside chat, Minister Verrall shared her views on the female representation in STEM-fields and Research and innovation and reflected on learnings from her own time in Singapore, and her progression into politics.

“Business Round Table with Hon. Damien O’Connor”; Minister for Trade and Export Growth

This informal yet focused roundtable discussion provided leaders from our corporate community join Hon. Damien O’Connor, as he shared his views on views on What resilience means, Work the government is pursuing under the Trade Recovery Strategy, and How the New Zealand export sector is adapting to the increasingly volatile global environment.

And finally, we **welcomed new Silver Sponsor Bankside Chambers to Singapore**, at a cocktail event held at the High Commissioners residence, where Sponsors were joined by many of the key legal fraternity in Singapore, as we introduced the partners of Bankside Chambers to our supportive community.

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International Women's Day: #EmbracingEquity

MĀIA hosted a panel discussion event, where conversations centered around #EmbracingEquity, delivered by an inspirational collective of Women, who specialise in, or have experienced themselves, a unique journey during times of change.

Another sold-out event, this year's event was staged in the beautiful surrounds of The Eden restaurant @ Pullman Singapore Orchard and proved yet again that this is fast becoming a key calendar highlight, with returning sponsors ANZ keen to support once again.

Community Connections

Waitangi Day returned! Over 1800 Kiwis and friends joined in force at AIS this year, where we sampled the best of NZ food, gin, products and more. It was an explosion of fun, The Air New Zealand return flights were won by Band and Board Member Danny, and kids were entertained by the many activities on offer. This community event was its biggest ever and we're in the process of locking it in for next year again.

Bledisloe @ BQ Bar. Members celebrated with friends at Chamber partner BQ Bar, as we trampled the Aussies (again) last September. There were fabulous prizes on offer, kiwi treats being sold, and a vibrant festive atmosphere, as usually happens when rugby is involved.

40th Birthday - 80's Trivia Night. Over 80 members joined in the fun, reminiscing over 80's music, politics, and world events, that transpired over iconic decade know for Wham, Fluro and Big Hair.

Inter-chamber RWC networking event. We joined 9 International Chambers to celebrate the upcoming launch of the 2023 RWC, at the Exchange hotel. This is a great example of us connecting with other chamber groups and broadening our community and possibilities here and abroad.

Matariki- celebrating for the second year in a row, the community came together at the High commissioner's Residence, in recognition of the significant occasion marking the start of the Māori New Year.

And Finally, **The Great Aotearoa Ball** returned in fine form, with close to 500 guests celebrating in style together for the first time in several years. The glittery event showcased everything kiwi, from fine food and wines, fabulous entertainment, and the generosity of our members and sponsors, who contributed to one of biggest fundraisers on record. A fabulous reward for a trying few years for the chamber.

We look forward to this year's special Gala event celebrating our 40th Anniversary in Singapore. Our Sparkling Soirée will deliver something even more spectacular, with more activations, more dancing, more fun, and **something different** - be sure to grab your tickets soon. Dust off the sequins, shine the shoes and get ready to dance!

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SPONSORSHIP

- Premier Sponsors:** ANZ and The Australian International School continue their support of the Chamber as Premier Sponsors
- Silver Sponsors:** Air New Zealand, 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 member; adding to our long-term business members, we have seen the welcomed Little Farms, K3 Legal, and One World International School.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership has grown to over 320+, including corporate nominees, which represents a 15% increase on last year. We have built our corporate partnerships to include over 45 business partners, and this support continues to grow.

We carried out our annual **member survey** in December, with a great response. These surveys help us to understand the types of events you want to see, how best to communicate and share Chamber news with you and provide you the opportunity to share your suggestions for improvement. Thanks to all those members who provided feedback!

CHAMBER EXECUTIVE

Our Executive Director, Tahsha Pratt, has now been with the Chamber for over a year, and brings with her a commitment to our members and partners through delivering a sustainable and focused schedule of events. She holds community at her core, and her strength in networking will ensure our social connections continue to grow now that restrictions appear to be a behind us. Stakeholder management, specifically member engagement and partner promotions will be her focus over the coming months, as it's through sponsor supported - value driven activities that we see membership numbers and engagement increase.

Our Events and Marketing Manager, Carina Lim, has ensured that all our events have been delivered professionally and profitably for all stakeholders involved, while ensuring attendee experience remains a priority. Her commitment to the Chamber, our members and sponsors has been widely acknowledged, and her support to the broader NZ inc. through her skills in multimedia and design, has ensured brand and messaging is delivered consistently and professionally.

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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 has seen Yvonne Foo from ANZ step down due to a career and country move within ANZ. seeing Jocelyn Tong- Palmer, also from ANZ, co-opted onto the board in the interim. Standing down from the Board at this AGM is Stu O'Connor from Fonterra, Danny Tauroa from XCL World Academy, and Rob McIntyre from Pullman Singapore Orchard. Together, your guidance and commitment to board and our Kiwi 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 are looking forward to introducing the new 2023/24 board at the upcoming AGM.

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 or at our Sparkling Soirée #ExpectSomethingDifferent

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