



MINUTES OF THE WAIRARAPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

HELD AT 10 O'CLOCK COOKIE BAKERY CAFÉ, QUEEN STREET, MASTERTON

24th NOVEMBER 2022, 5.30PM

Present:

Marie-Claire Andrews (Acting Chair), Angela Moylan (Deputy Chair), Julie Millar, Karl Burling, Damien Pivac, Allan Hogg, Monique Kloeg, Dale Williams (Deputy Mayor CDC), Pamela Feiertag, Mike Burger, Steven May, Wendy Morrison, Helen Tickner, Trace Higgins, Alyn Higgins, Teresa McClymont, Peter McNeur, Blair Rooney, Nikki Coulmann, Matt McQuaid, Georgia Ormond, Vaughn Paul, Christine Paul

1. Apologies:

Vernette Shapland, Julian Moss, Bex Johnson, Rebecca Schofield, Ali Killmister. Zteve Wilton, Brent Gare, Prue Hamill, Roger Boulter

2. Minutes from AGM held 30th November 2021

The Minutes of the AGM held 30th November 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record.

- Minutes – moved by Wendy Morrison
- Seconded by Julie Millar

3. Matters Arising from AGM Minutes 30th November 2021

No matters arising.

4. Chair Reports

Outgoing Chair Julie Millar read through the 2022 report (Appendix #1)

- Member recruitment under the Umbrella strategy was applauded
- Specific acknowledgement was given to the three district councils for their funding and support, along with alliance partners, Printcraft, Wairarapa Times-Age, and Mediaworks

Acting Chair Marie-Claire Andrews acknowledged Julie Millar's commitment to the Board during the extraordinary time of 2020 and Covid

Marie Claire Andrews read through the 2023 strategy (Appendix #2)

- Specific comment was made to 2023 being a year to cement collaborations and put Business Wairarapa in a position to authentically influence on behalf of the collective database of businesses represented.
- Nikki Coulmann sought clarification on Business Wairarapa's strategy in working with industry bodies such as Federated Farmers - noted that this was work in progress, with mutual desire to create a solution that prevented doubling up of memberships.

5. Financial Reports and Annual Accounts

No questions were asked in regards to the financial reports

- Acceptance of the Financial Reports – moved by Angela Moylan
- Seconded by Pamela Feiertag

6. Appointment of Reviewer

It was recommended that Sellar & Sellar be appointed as the Chamber Reviewer for 2023

- Moved by Wendy Morrison
- Seconded by Teresa McClymont

7. Wairarapa Chamber of Commerce Board Elections

Julie Millar and Damien Pivac both stepped down from the Board

Nominations of Matt McQuaid (PlyGuy) and Blair Rooney (Enable Design) were unanimously agreed to join the Board of Business Wairarapa consisting of:

- Marie-Claire Andrews (Acting Chair)
- Angela Moylan (Deputy Chair)
- Vernetta Shapland (Treasurer)
- Monique Kloeg
- Karl Burling
- Allan Hogg

8. Acknowledgement of Life Members of Business Wairarapa

Pru Hamill, Bob Francis, Dawn Wylie and David Stevenson were all acknowledged as life members of Business Wairarapa.

9. General Business

1. Business Wairarapa GM, Nicola Belsham acknowledged both Julie Millar and Damien Pivac for their contribution to the Board and thanked members, affirming that Business Wairarapa's role was to facilitate support, advocacy and capability to ALL businesses Wairarapa-wide.
2. Nikki Coulman (Forest Enterprises) won the hat-draw of \$500 Air New Zealand Flighy Dollars.

Meeting closed 6.25pm

Minutes approved by:

Signature:

Date:

APPENDIX #1 2022 Report

Since the last AGM and the Resolution passed to progress the creation of an inclusive, region-wide business association for Wairarapa (Umbrella strategy), work continued in collaborating with all sub-regional organisations – for the benefit of ALL Wairarapa businesses and contribution to economic resilience and wellbeing.

Over the past year, we have welcomed over 80 new businesses from the Martinborough Business Association and 50-plus from Go Carterton. Both organisations have seen an increase in membership, attributable to partnership with Business Wairarapa.

Currently, we are speaking with Maori in Business Wairarapa and Federated Farmers Wairarapa for member representation within the Umbrella.

Through a new CRM, our reach now extends to some 1,000 businesses across Wairarapa, and we are able to accurately coordinate memberships between the sub-regional entities, plus provide better reporting on engagement.

EVENTS

Whilst event attendance was challenging early in the year due the ongoing sluggishness of Covid, by August, we saw a sudden upturn in people reuniting with the world, and attendance exceeding expectations

The Wairarapa Business Summit postponed from May to August proved a huge success, with 80 businesses attending

Especially well received was the interactive format of the Summit, and the general openness of businesses – especially SMEs - prepared to share experience, information and data of the past two years.

The Summit was highly supported by Wairarapa industry leaders as well as BusinessNZ CEO Kirk Hope, with experiences and examples freely contributed by construction, agriculture, transport and quaternary industries on skills development, staff attraction and retention.

Other key Business events throughout the year welcomed Associate Minister of Health Dr Ayesha Verrall for a business breakfast on vaccine availability in Wairarapa; a well-presented breakfast on staff recruitment and retention - co-hosted by Maddison Recruitment and Hutt valley Chamber CEO, Patrick McKibbin; A luncheon with Nicola Willis was well supported; and whilst our relationship with the Wairarapa Parliamentary office remains ever-strong, alas a business after 5 event with Grant Robertson was cancelled due to the residual environment at the time.

TRAINING

In **training**, we delivered an online series in Te Reo for Business; and through the WEDS forum, and in collaboration with 3Mile Carterton and Maori in Business Wairarapa, we have been successful in

contracting to MBIE to deliver the Digital Boost programme to SME businesses. Our relationship with Business Central continues with discounted rates for leadership training, and a new relationship with Wellington Uni-Professional, will see Business Wairarapa sponsoring more leadership opportunities in 2023.

ADVOCACY

In Advocacy, Business Wairarapa during 2022, became a valued stakeholder within the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy refresh. This resulted in closer relationships with Government agencies such as MBIE, as well as economic development associations such as WellingtonNZ, and other initiatives operating within Wairarapa such as Youth 2 Work. These close relationships also include the three district Councils, who jointly provide support and financial sponsorship, further enabling and extending our independent activity.

Recently, in association with Federated Farmers, Business Wairarapa hosted the first joint Mayoral Candidates presentation to provide a forum for introducing ALL mayoral candidates from across the region, and on behalf of *Wairarapa INC*, witness firsthand, how they would work together.

In skills and recruitment, Business Wairarapa sits on the Regional Skills Leadership Group. This means reporting to a region-wide panel on where skills gaps are, and where opportunities lie.

Business Wairarapa input is increasingly sought for initiatives around economic development and economic well-being – so member engagement through direct conversation or member surveys is so very vital to providing accurate feedback.

Finally, this year's **Wairarapa Awards** held Tuesday witnessed another 50-plus businesses nominated across the region and we were extremely excited to have the new category represented, the Pakihi Maori Awards with thanks to Kahungunu ki Wairarapa. The judge's final decision across ALL categories was extremely difficult – a true testament to the vitality and vibrancy that is contributing to a thriving Wairarapa. To continue to host the Wairarapa Awards as one of the region's premium events, brings a positive year to a close on a reverberating high note.

APPENDIX #2 2023 Strategic Direction

It's our stated mission to represent every Wairarapa business, providing leadership, creating opportunities, and sharing ideas through the principles of *link*, *collaborate* and *influence*.

As you've heard, 2022 was very much about living up to that expectation of 'link' and 'collaborate' with the umbrella strategy taking up most of our focus.

2023 will use the momentum we've built to cement the collaborations and put us in a position to authentically influence on behalf of the collective database of businesses we represent.

Key to this is our support of the newly created 'Business Masterton' division, an entity that has its own governance structure and connection to Business Wairarapa just as the other local networks do. Business Masterton will take over the networking for Masterton businesses, and engagement with the Masterton District council on Masterton only issues.

As Business Wairarapa, with a region wide remit and funding secured from all Wairarapa councils, we are now able to design and deliver a 2023 strategy that focuses on business capability and advocacy without the need to rely on membership fees alone. We are also able to bid for government contracts to facilitate business development within the region, because we can authentically prove that we represent all businesses in the region.

What we will actually do:

1. Trial a business member helpline from the end of 2022
2. Deliver two key annual events:
 - Wairarapa Business Summit
 - Wairarapa Awards 2023
3. Deliver at least four key training events for businesses across the region:
 - two leadership development opportunities
 - two soft-skills training opportunities
4. Run advocacy events, and regular region wide business breakfasts and after 5s.
5. Provide at least one grant/sponsorship through partnership UCOL Wairarapa
6. Continue to engage with sub-regional and business organisations to coordinate networking, skills development and other events
7. Provide data, insights and offer advice to regional and national organisations on behalf of the business community in Wairarapa.

What YOU can do:

Member engagement is critical to achieving all of the above. Without members being active, engaged, and involved in letting us know what they need, we cannot accurately represent, deliver capability, and support you!

- Come to events
- Provide input to surveys (we promise to keep them short!)
- Share your skills
- Talk to us!