



WAIRARAPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

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

28 NOVEMBER 2023, 5.30PM

Present: Marie-Claire Andrews (Chair), Angela Moylan (Deputy), Vernetta Roberts (Treasurer), Nicola Belsham (GM), Karl Burling (JNL), Blair Rooney (Enable Digital), Monique Kloeg (TenCC), Josie Askin (Spring Coaching), Chrissy Cummings (Destination Wairarapa), Mike Butterick (MP), Jenni Hall (Youth2Work), Brent Gare (Mediaworks), Wendy Morrison (Tranzit), Pamela Fieretag (Wai Shuttles), Matt McQuaid (Ply Guy), Christian Carter (Driving Miss Daisy), Teresa McClymont (Wairarapa Waste Water), Steven may (MDC), Stella Lennox (MDC), Tess Mills (Urlar), Richard Hall (Stonehenge), Kay Leather (Stonehenge), Trish Wilkinson (First Health), Clare Menzies (WNZ).

Meeting Opened 5.45pm

1. Apologies

Allan Hogg (Martinborough Business assoc); Cath Archer (Trinity schools Trust); Sue Wilkinson (Mint Martinborough); Camilla Railton (Home & Interiors Show); Prue Hamill (Harcourts Hamill Realty); Helen Murphy (Wai-UK store)

2. Acceptance of Minutes of previous AGM (24 November 2022)

Moved - Steven May

Second - Pamela Feiertag

3. Presentation & acceptance of the Chair's Annual Report on Operations and Affairs Appendix #1 Read by Marie-Claire Andrews

Key points:

2023 has seen Business Wairarapa living up to the expectation of INFLUENCE by creating a database that truly represents the whole region.

A central database now represents nearly 10% of business in Wairarapa and is used to attract business capabilities.

2023 also saw the launch of Tupu Ana Masterton - as an independent legitimate Masterton Business Association entity with its own board and budget.

Business Wairarapa is committed to seeing WaiHost play a fundamental role in Wairarapa and to continue an 0800 helpline offering free HR and employment legal advice.

During 2024 growth of our membership is a priority so that we may confidently and authentically be the voice of business in Wairarapa.

Business Wairarapa is dedicated to the health and vibrancy of the business sector and to ensure that all sub-regional associations are included in council discussions around amalgamation.

Special thanks was made to the volunteer board.

Acceptance of Chair's Report:

Moved wendy Morrison

Seconded by Kay Leather

4. Presentation & acceptance of the Annual Financial Statements

Comments or questions were invited:

Christian Carter raised that the majority of revenue came from grants rather than membership and queried what the outlook would be going further.

Business Wairarapa GM explained that the strategy to be an umbrella association and encourage businesses to join their local association in the first instance meant a drop in member revenue in favour of representation across the whole region and in creating a database that can then be utilised to seek Government contracts for capability over and above member revenue.

This is a model that larger Chambers have also adopted - Auckland Chamber membership making just 5% of total revenue streams.

Acceptance of the Financial Report:

Moved - Angela Moylan

Second - Matt McQuaid

5. Appointment of Officers

The Chair acknowledged the contribution of Matt McQuaid who was stepping down as representative of Go Carterton and welcomed Josie Askin as nominated by the Go Carterton executive committee to take Matt's place at the Board.

All other Board members and Officers were re-standing for 2023 - being:

Marie-Claire Andrews - Chair

Angela Moylan - Deputy Chair

Vernette Roberts - Treasurer & Maori in Business Trustee

Chrissy Cummings - Board member representing Destination Wairarapa

Blair Rooney - Board member representing Tupu Ana Masterton

Allan Hogg - Board member representing Martinborough Business Association

Monique Kloeg - Board member representing Youth2Work Wairarapa

Karl Burling - Board Member representing large business and Manufacturing

All attending unanimously agreed to confirm the above Board members and Officers.

6. Any Agenda items / Motions so received

A. Approval of the updated Constitution 2023

The updated 2023 Constitution was unanimously accepted.

B. Acknowledgment of Life Members of Business Wairarapa

The Chair acknowledged Life Members Wendy Morrison, Pru Hamill, Bob Francis, Dawn Wylie and David Stevenson.

The Chair nominated Julie Millar as a life member of Business Wairarapa due to her commitment and activity within the Community.

All in attendance unanimously agreed.

7. General Business

The Draw of \$500 Air New Zealand flight dollars was won by Brent Gare.

Meeting closed 6.30pm

Appendix #1 - Chair Report 2023

Chair's Report: Business Wairarapa - Annual Review 2023

At the 2022 AGM, Business Wairarapa reiterated its stated mission to represent EVERY Wairarapa business, providing leadership, creating opportunities, and sharing ideas through the principles of *link, collaborate and influence*.

So this last year has very much been about living up to the expectation of 'link' and 'collaborate' with the umbrella strategy taking up most of our focus. This was the year that we put pedal to the metal, ironed out the finer details and confirmed a mutual membership structure with Destination Wairarapa, Go Carterton and Martinborough Business Association. Our governance structure was improved as a result - with representatives from those groups actively participating as Board members of Business Wairarapa. We are now in a position to authentically influence on behalf of the collective database of businesses we represent.

We also invested time and energy into launching Tupu Ana Masterton, the Masterton Business Association to ensure the umbrella strategy was authentic in Masterton too. It's now an independent association, with it's own board and budget - and of course all members of Tupu Ana Masterton are members of Business Wairarapa!

Business Wairarapa's database now represents nearly 10% of the total businesses registered in the region, serving as a valuable resource for attracting capability initiatives and facilitating workforce research and development.

This overarching model of collaboration was recognised at the NZ Chambers of Commerce and Industry Conference 2023, with the Business Wairarapa Chamber model applauded for providing a meaningful conduit to economic development and serving as a sustainable framework for small and regional Chambers to operate.

2023 also proved rich in events, advocacy, capability building - and influence - there are some highlights worth special mention:

In alignment with the Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan, Business Wairarapa has played a significant role in workforce and resilience building.

- 2023 commenced with the successful launch of the WaiHost training programme, addressing the critical need for soft-skills training among customer/front-facing employees in the tourism, hospitality, health, local government and manufacturing sectors. Seven oversubscribed workshops conducted from April to October not only filled a training gap for employers but also ensured the emergence of a job-ready workforce.

- A series of Lunch and Learn workshops also received large attendance, one of the most memorable being a workshop in Leadership when under Pressure with ex NZ Defence Force Director of Strategic Plans, Andrew Fox;
- and Business Wairarapa continues to provide political forums for member voices to be heard, 2023 being witness to robust discussions around SH2 speed restrictions and on issues surrounding Wairarapa's infrastructure needs.
- In providing tangible support for our region-wide businesses, we introduced an 0800 Helpline, to provide FREE HR and employment legal advice to our primarily SME community;
- and attracting over 200 businesses, the 2023 Wairarapa Business Summit delivered honest and relevant advice from high-calibre speakers, including Karen Walker, Brad Olsen, and Lilia Alexander. A full day of iconic speakers delivered valuable insights, data, and tools, for enhancing the capabilities of our SME community.
- Finally, the 2023 Business Awards reflected remarkable region-wide success, with increased entries and overwhelming engagement, culminating in a sell-out Gala Dinner just two weeks ago.

Looking Ahead to 2024

- At least 10% growth in membership to reach 600 members - working with other sub regional groups eg Wai Women in Business, supporting Featherston business community with their efforts to establish a local group etc
- Another successful Summit, Awards, series of lunch and learn workshops
- Expansion of WaiHost programme
- Continued alliance with Destination Wairarapa to ensure effective delivery of business capability initiatives that benefit our communities
- Wairarapa Monopoly!

As we actively engage with our database, we aim to ensure that business perspectives, along with those of sub-regional business associations, are considered and represented in local and regional discussions, particularly those concerning amalgamation.

In the pursuit of our mission, Business Wairarapa remains dedicated to monitoring the overall health, vibrancy, and growth of the local business sector. We will track key economic indicators, such as job creation, business expansion, and retention, adjusting our strategies as needed to achieve mutually agreed-upon goals.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another year of collaborative success.

