

President's Message, March 2017

Dear Members,

In last month's newsletter I touched on the membership position and the urgent need to increase our membership substantially over the balance of this financial year and beyond. As mentioned in the previous month's newsletter there have been a number of initiatives to increase membership and attract more sponsorship. I am pleased to report that since last month's newsletter we have increased paid membership by over 53%, as well as increasing general membership. We have introduced a Strategic Partners tier as well as a Corporate Knights tier. Both these categories attract increased revenue from sponsors (to date the equivalent of 30+ new members), as well as increased and ongoing commitments from the Chamber. It is obvious, however, that we cannot sit back and rest on our laurels, thinking members will come to us; the reality is that we need to be more proactive and innovative in our approach to attract and retain members and sponsors. It is very pleasing to see some of this hard work starting to bear fruit!

Speaking of fruit, significant newsworthy events have been taking place to celebrate 120 years in business by T&G (Turners & Growers). A recent function was hosted by T&G Global Regional Manager, South East Asia, Victor Anderson, who was also joined by T&G Executive General Managers, Sarah McCormack and Darren Drury and Benedikt Mangold, from New Zealand.



"It's exciting to be celebrating the start of our 120th year in business with our partners in Thailand, given the hugely important role this market is playing in our ongoing success. Our refreshed JAZZ branding is currently being rolled out globally as new-season apples make their way into market. The feedback we have had so far has been very positive and we're excited about our future in Thailand and our other key markets".

"Sarah McCormack"

Pictured: Ben King, NZ Ambassador to Thailand; Karen Campbell, NZ Trade Commissioner to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos PDR & Myanmar; Sarah McCormack, Executive General Manager and Darren Drury, Executive General Manager PipFruit

Our Networking and social calendar has commenced with the most recent social activity being **"The Long Luncheon."** This was held at Kai restaurant and hosted by Kai owner Craig McLean – proceeds from the day will be allocated to charity. Our guests at the luncheon needed no introduction to NZ rugby fans: ex-All Blacks Stu Wilson, Murray Mexted, Olo Brown and Charles Reichelmann.

Keep an eye out for our next function, our Corporate Knights Event on 27th April – details to be circulated

The Scene was set for a great night



Co-organized with the NZ Society, this year's NZ Ball sold out within 5 minutes with a waiting list for tickets that continues to grow every year. Renowned among Bangkok socialites and indeed everyone looking for a great night out, it is truly Bangkok's most prestigious ball. Well done to all the organisers and sponsors, as well as the Amari Watergate, who contributed to its success. Your hard work and financial support is greatly appreciated, so thank you!

Thanks also to our new financial members and others who have made financial commitments to the Chamber. I'm sure these new members that will not only add value to the Chamber, but also create networking opportunities which in time will assist and strengthen the growth of NZTCC.

Home & Away

New Zealand is continuing to work with its partners in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) to explore options on how to best capture the benefits of the agreement following the withdrawal of the US after President Trump's inauguration in late January.

The remaining 11 TPP partners met as a group for the first time since the US withdrawal in Chile on 15 March. Trade Minister Todd McClay represented New Zealand. The group issued a joint media statement following the meeting reaffirming its commitment to free and open trade and recognising the benefits of TPP. The [statement](#) can be found on the Beehive website.

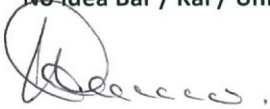
The parties are also committed to a process whereby senior economic officials would meet to continue discussions ahead of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade meeting [on 20-21 May](#). This work will remain the focus of TPP partner efforts over the coming months, but New Zealand still views TPP as a vehicle for wider Asia-Pacific economic integration and therefore open to expanded membership in future.

Yesterday marks six months until the NZ General Election

Last but not least..!

A warm welcome to our new members and a big thank you to those existing members who have increased their sponsorship level:

Thai Premium Lawyers / Silk Legal / Logtag Recorders / Meyer International / Microlistics / Enviropaz / NZ Boysenberries / No Idea Bar / Kai / United Food Company / Fisher & Paykel / Toll / Rimpac



Warren

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