



53rd Annual Report

2nd June 2022

American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand Inc.

PO Box 106-002, Auckland Central, Auckland, 1143

Tel 0-9-309 9140

amcham@amcham.co.nz

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN NEW ZEALAND INC. HELD ONLINE, NEW ZEALAND
2nd June 2022**

As your President it is my pleasure to present my annual report of the Board of Directors and the annual financial statements of the American Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand for the year ended 31 December 2021.

2021 was a challenging year with all the COVID19 lockdowns. As a networking organisation, the loss of in-person events severely limited some of the benefits we were able to provide for members. However, against this backdrop, many of our members reported strong growth with their businesses, particularly in the USA.

On the political front relations with the USA continue to grow with the Prime Minister visiting the US this past week, including a meeting with President Biden on Tuesday. Other Ministers have travelled to the USA over the year despite NZ's border being closed. The recently held US Summit included speeches by US Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo and Dr Kurt Campbell, The Whitehouse Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs – National Security Council.

In February President Biden launched his Indo-Pacific Strategy for a “free and open Indo-Pacific” region, which pledges support for regional connectivity, trade, and investment, and deepening bilateral and multilateral partnerships. There are 8 key pillars within the strategy for countries to negotiate on sectors including digital agreements, which New Zealand could be interested in signing on to. The one clear benefit of any agreements that come out of the strategy is that they will not need to be approved by Congress.

We have seen the welcome return of flights with to USA by Air New Zealand (San Francisco on 14 April, Houston on 7 July and Chicago on 30 October) including the up-coming inaugural Auckland to New York direct flight in September. Hawaiian Airlines recommence flights on 4 July, and American Airlines will offer a direct Auckland to Dallas/Fort Worth flight for the summer starting in October. We expect United Airlines to resumes flights from San Francisco by the end of the year.

Trade supply lines continued to be severely disrupted with less air freight capacity, a lack of shipping containers, significant delays at ports and increased costs. Despite this, New Zealand's total mercantile trade figures for the year to March were up \$24 billion or 20.7% (exports up 11.36% and imports up 30.45%). Exports to the USA were up 8.5% at \$7.02 billion and imports were up 22.9% to \$6.36 billion. The USA is still New Zealand's third largest trading partner, representing just under 10% on New Zealand's total trade in goods.

Exports of technology and services continue to grow, and we have seen over \$17 billion of new US investment in New Zealand in announced in the last year. New data centres are being built by Microsoft, DCI Data Centres and AWS has received OIO approval for it \$7.5 billion investment in data centres over the next few years.

Since the EVisa programme was introduced in mid-2019 there have been 160 visas issued with new investment in the USA totalling approximately US\$32 million. Several of our members have benefited from this programme.

In late November we welcomed US Ambassador Tom Udall and his wife, Jill Cooper. The Ambassadors key strategies include working on President Biden's Indo Pacific Strategy, Climate Change/Sustainability, and Indigenous Peoples.

Our Women' Chapter have been active holding key events for Chapter members and meet regularly planning events for 2022.

The board thanks Legacy, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair, Ada Echetebe and Women's Chapter committee of Sarah A. Weersing (Chair), Leanne Cheesman, Cynthia O'Neill, Katie Sleeman, and Jo Finer for their significant contribution and support. The Chapters support was recently recognized at our rescheduled 2021 AmCham-DHL Express awards where they were presented with the 2021 AmCham Supporter of the Year award.

We have recently launched a Healthcare committee and the group is due to hold their first meeting next month.

We have invited AmCham Australia to visit Wellington again in August and key events are being planned for them including our annual reception at Parliament.

Since 2014 the AmCham Board has invited an Auckland University of Technology Business School student future leader join the board for a one-year term, in a non-voting capacity. I would like to thank the 2021 appointee Lauchlan Wallace for his time and support, also the team at the Auckland University of Technology Business School for their ongoing support of this initiative. I look forward to welcoming the 2022 appointee, Jade Russell.

Over the last two months we have been collaborating with a team from Villanova University on a project "Digital Free Trade Between the USA and New Zealand." Our thanks to all members and others who took time to talk with them and share their stories. Thanks also to Stephen Pattillo, Pattillo & Associates/Global Academic Ventures for their support with this programme. Their final report is on our website.

Membership

While membership revenues were down over the last year, numbers remained constant.

We are working on a new initiative to deliver more tailored networking for the members and in the coming weeks we will be seeking members input to assist us deliver this. Our thanks to Jonathan Reid for his work on this project.

Events

As previously noted, with all the COVID19 lockdowns we are not able to hold in-person for almost half of 2021 which severely impacted revenues. We held several webinars and members had the additional benefit of access to joint webinars with AmCham Australia. I would like to thank the AmCham Australia team for their support and assistance.

We were unable to hold the normal annual AmCham-DHL Express Success & Innovation Awards dinner in 2021 but have just held a networking event to present the awards. Our thanks to DHL Express, ANZ Bank and Ironside McDonald Intellectual Property, and our wine sponsor Constellation Wines for their ongoing support of these awards. At this event we launched the 2022 the AmCham-DHL Express Success & Innovation Awards, welcoming back United Airlines. And new silver sponsor Lockheed Martin.

A special thanks to the following members and others who hosted or sponsored events or meetings during the last twelve months: American Magic, Cordis Hotel, ANZ Bank, EY, The Hotel Britomart, Media Design School, the University of Auckland Business School, and Velocity Made Good.

As a not-for-profit organisation receiving no government funding, we rely heavily on such member support.

Directors

Directors appointed during the year
Sarah Salmond, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
Cameron Taylor, Ernst & Young

I would also like to acknowledge the support I have received from my fellow finance committee member, Stephen Titter.

Annual Financial Statements

The impact of not being able to hold events was ameliorated by the government's resurgence and wage subsidy payments.

The annual financial statements, which have been circulated with this report, show that 2021 finished with a profit of \$4,252. By year-end accumulated funds stood at \$110,621.

Honorary Appointments

Minter Ellison Rudd Watts have agreed to continue as our honorary solicitors. My thanks to Sarah Salmond, and her team.

REB Chartered Accountants have agreed to continue as our honorary auditors. I would like to thank Richard Moore and his team for their support.

Staff

I would like to congratulate our Executive Director, Mike Hearn, for all his tireless efforts & the results achieved during the last year.

Conclusion

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last year. If there is anything that we can do to assist your business in these difficult times, please get in touch with Mike Hearn or myself.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan P. Mason". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jonathan Mason
President