

## Minutes

Held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at the Orchard, Whangarei

36 members in attendance

### Present:

Andrew Chuter	ARC Security
Andrew Fergus	IT Live
Andy Cooney	Caniwi Construction Ltd
Brocke Reti	ARC Security
Cam Thompson	Visual Technology
Caroline Silk	Barrister and Mediator
Clare Davies-Colley	DCGroup
David Finchett	Northport
Dionne Stroebel	Salt & Oil
Dirk Mostert	Beacon Point Private Wealth Ltd
Drew Hepburn	Photography by Nimmy
Francoise Vaughan	Strategicco
Helen Blaxland	North Haven Hospice
Jamie Silk	Silk Advisory and Innovation Ltd
Jan Hewitt	NEST
Joel de Vetter	Director
JP Dignon	CDL Group
Ken Couper	Whangārei District Council
Leo Unger	Human Assets
Libby Jones	Jigsaw North Manaaki Whanau
Marcela Thompson	NDSL/Ricoh
Matt Watts	ARC Security
Mere Teinaki	Northland Chartered Accountants
Murray Broadbelt	Employer Services Ltd
Nimmy Santhosh	Photography by Nimmy
Paul Doherty	Weekday Challenge
Paul Linton	Northland Inc
Paul Stewart	PS Thinking
Rachel Chuter	ARC Security
Sandeep Diwan	Calders Design & Print
Sue Walters	Northland Scaffolding
Susan Cooney	Oxygen8
Tim Robinson	Bernina Northland
Tom Revill	RD3 Tech
Tony Collins	WDC
Tracey McKenzie	McKenzie Civil Contracting Ltd
Trish Madison	Jigsaw North

Leah McKerrow - CEO welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with Karakia

Tim Robinson – Deputy Chair:

**Apologies:**

Danny Douglas, Barbara Jacques, Ben Chapman, Andrew McLeod, Peter Heath, Piripi Moore, Dean Abel, Stephen Gibson, John Vujcich,

The Chair (Steve) was unable to attend at the last moment hence the Deputy Chair (Tim Robinson) presented the Chair's report.

Obituaries: Wally Yovich, Monty Knight. Both will be sadly missed by the business community.

The Chair's report was adopted.

Moved: Tim Robinson

Seconded: Trish Madison

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed.

Two attendance errors corrected from previous meeting.

Moved: Tim Robinson

Seconded: JP Dignon

**CEO Report**

CEO gave a presentation about the achievements for the year, financial performance and future plans and purpose of NorthChamber which was well received.

Enabling business to thrive and key themes of Advocacy, Build and Celebrate were explored including Business Excellence Awards, the Northland Monopoly project, full programme of events and NorthChamber's overall financial position at the start and end of the year.

Chamber welcomed 75 new members this year and the volunteers who support NorthChamber's work were sincerely thanked. This include judges, board members, supporters

New website is being developed.

A new programme of work for helping employers find staff called ChamberWorks

She extended her thanks to the team and to the board for the past year.

CEO's report was adopted.

**Questions from the floor:**

Chamber Works is about to go live – this a NZ wide programme funded by MSD In answer to a question, it was confirmed that some candidates may attract a 'return to work' subsidy from MSD.

Does it include the 'prison gate' programme of work? **Action Leah**

Were rural areas represented at the 'A Connected North' event? Yes, there were many around different sectors and different areas from Northland.

Paul Linton, Northland Inc CEO passed on his organisation's congratulations to Leah and the team for a successful year of Chamber operations.

The appointment of an auditor was discussed. Board and members are concerned about the cost of an audit and the limited benefit hence the decision was made to not proceed. Was there an action from last year's AGM to review?

Motion: not to appoint an auditor unless there is an outstanding action.:

Moved: Tim Robinson

Seconded: Dirk Mostert

Motion: Membership subscriptions should be increase by cpi.

Moved: Tim Robinson

Seconded: Jan Hewitt

The meeting closed at 1830.