

Tribute for Jeroen

It has been with a great deal of sadness and a sense of absolute disbelief that we learned earlier this week of the untimely passing of one of our NorthChamber Board members Jeroen Jongejans.

As many know Jeroen has been a stalwart of our region for decades and the list of his many business and civic undertakings are a testament to his boundless energy, enthusiasm and passion to see Northland succeed.

NorthChamber Board President Tim Robinson sums up how many of our board and team are feeling in the words he shared with us...

“Having been in the privileged position to know Jeroen, as much as a friend as a business colleague, my heart is saddened at the gaping hole left behind by his passing.

Jeroen was a true visionary and leader, passionately positive about our region and environment, and always looking for the next big opportunity to add genuine value that would benefit future generations. Jeroen was always present and engaged, and never needed to “win” a conversation. His empathy and desire for a great outcome always drove his business decision making, which flowed through into an incredibly positive contribution to NorthChamber. His memory will live in our hearts forever.”

Jeroen served on the NorthChamber board from 2007 to 2014 and again from 2018 to the present day, a total of 12 years.

An advocate for the NorthChamber Northland Business Excellence Awards he participated fully in all aspects of the process. His business Dive! Tutukaka won the Destination Northland Excellence in Tourism Award in 2005 and then the Northland Supreme Business of the Year Award in 2009. Jeroen was inducted into the Northern Advocate Business Hall of Fame in 2015, (the same year he won the Tourism Industry Champion Award at the Tourism Industry Awards.

Jeroen became a judge for the Business Awards Northland Inc. Innovate Category from 2015, sharing his many years of business experience with entrants in the category that celebrates fresh ideas, out the box thinking and creative solutions, an apt category for him to be engaged with.

We will miss you and all you bring Jeroen. We extend our heartfelt condolences and love to Kate and family, their friends, wider work whanau and our community on the great loss of this good man. We will continue to remember and honour you in the work we do and attitude we bring.