



A Word from the Chair



Kia orana Members

The year is disappearing fast, but there is still so much happening. Our consultations with government on various policy areas continue, our support for small businesses with the Business Link Pacific program is incredibly busy. And our Year-End event with Gilbert Enoka is in three weeks - see you there.

Kia Manuia
Addrienne Hosking-Tinirau, Chair

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End of Year Chamber Event with Gilbert Enoka

Save the date - 18th Dec 2023

The Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce a special end-of-year event with All Blacks Manager and Mental Skills Coach Gilbert Enoka.

"My set of values is simple – my word is my honour and I seal things with a handshake."

Gilbert Enoka has a long history of success as a mental skills coach with New Zealand's corporate and sporting elite. He is internationally renowned for his 23-year history with the All Blacks, first as their mental skills coach and then as All Blacks Manager - Leadership. He has been with the All Blacks for over 300 tests and during that time the team has won back-to-back

Rugby World Cups, a very close runner up in 2023, one Laureus Award (for the best team in the world), 21 consecutive Bledisloe Cups, three Grand Slams, eight Tri Nations and Nine Rugby Championships.

Gilbert has worked as a mental skills coach for the All Blacks, Canterbury Crusaders, the Silver Ferns and the Black Caps and strongly believes that players who are mentally prepared will perform better on the day. Gilbert is currently consulting with Chelsea Football club in the UK.

He has also worked as a highly skilled practitioner, working on performance enhancement for over thirty years with top CEO's, businesses, and sporting elite.

The Chamber event will be held at Muri Beach Club at 6pm, Mon 18th December. Tickets will be \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members, and can be purchased online at www.goraro.com from the 1st December.





COOK ISLANDS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PUNANGA KIMI PUAPINGA O TE KUKI AIRANI

2023 Annual General Meeting

The well attended meeting heard from the out-going Chair, Phillip Henderson, who said: “The Cook Islands continue to persevere in its recovery from one of the most challenging economic disruptions in our history. We are absorbing the shock of increasing inflation, restricted labour forces and a slow return of flights and visiting tourists to our shores to name a few.”

Reports on the last 12 months highlighted Chamber’s involvement with the National Labour Advisory Board, Liquor Licensing, Superannuation, Land Agents Registration, Marae Moana Council, ASYCUDA and the Minimum Wage Review.

Of considerable importance was the Chamber’s representations to government regarding revisions to the Immigration Regulations, with announcements on this expected soon. The Chamber also supported 99 small local businesses by facilitating grants for them from Business Link Pacific.

Mr Henderson said “With a number of our COVID related funding streams coming to their natural conclusion, we’ve seen a change in staffing levels and activities.

However, our goals remain ambitious, our business needs are great, and there is still more to do to ensure a prosperous Business economy for our members.”

A strategic plan was presented that included improving value for membership, having a consistent voice, monitoring the economy, maintaining a productive working relationship with government and promoting good governance.

Some specific actions for the coming year are to work with Government on mechanisms to manage credit card fees, to review the BTIB fee structure, and to engage on the proposed water metering mechanism and tariff.

The Chamber also celebrates its 40th anniversary shortly, and a major event is planned.

New Chair Addrienne Hosking-Tinirau thanked the outgoing Chair for his tireless work for the Chamber, welcomed the incoming team, and is determined to set a fast-track pace for the work ahead.

The meeting concluded with a social event sponsored by Vodafone, BSP and Edgewater.

New Office Bearers

The AGM elected new Chair Addrienne Hosking-Tinirau (Country Manager for Air NZ), new vice-Chair Eve Hayden, and directors Vaine Nooana-Arioka, Rebecca Puni, David Street and Steve Anderson. Existing directors Gaye Whitta, Chantal Napa and Liana Scott continue for a further year.

Why join the Chamber of Commerce?

- Access to useful networking events
- Input on Chamber policy submissions to government
- Access to mentoring and SME grant funding programmes
- Support navigating various application and compliance matters
- Access to your representative on various government boards and committees
- Input on labour policy and minimum wage reviews
- Connection with export opportunities
- You are supporting the voice for business in the Cook Islands



Introducing our new Chamber Chair

A descendant of Paramount Traditional chief Tinomana Ariki; Addrienne's leadership and passion for people has been reflected through her involvement in business enterprise and airline strategies.

Addrienne is always drawn to progressive challenges that enable young Cook Islands women to achieve and succeed.

Through her involvement with the Miss Cook Islands Association, she has enabled women to advance future endeavours.

Addrienne has dedicated thirty-one years of her life to Air New Zealand, which has demonstrated her ability to excel in operational excellence and business acumen.

Addrienne graduated in 2019 with a Bachelors in Applied Management, Otago University, New Zealand.

Addrienne's appointment as the first indigenous female Cook Islands Country Manager has been a milestone for Air New Zealand and a career aspiration Addrienne believes is testament.



to all Cook Islands woman in leadership roles.

Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce is the forefront for the private sector therefore.

Addrienne is committed in ensuring the delivery of our strategic plan in improving value for membership, having a consistent voice monitoring the economy, maintaining a productive working relationship with government, and promoting good governance.

Addrienne loves family time with her husband Tamatoa, their three children and four grandchildren.

Get in touch....

Want to talk business?

Feel free to contact us.....

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Phone:
+682 20925

Or drop in:

Just past Cooks corner

Tutakimoa Road
Avarua
Rarotonga

Kia Manuia
The Chamber Team





Updates

Immigration Regulations

Chamber of Commerce, along with the Tourism Industry Council, made a number of submissions to Cabinet with regard to the recently promulgated Immigration Regulations. The Chamber understands that the concerns raised have had a favourable hearing, and an announcement from Government, while delayed by the recent Forum Leaders' Meeting, is expected soon.

Fringe Benefit Tax

A number of Chamber members have contacted the board with regard to new and wider interpretations of 'fringe benefits' and their taxability.

The Chamber is taking advice on this matter, particularly on the fairness of the new stance being taken. Chamber welcomes input from any business regarding how the new interpretations are affecting their business, and any concerns they might have.

Water Metering

Some businesses in the Arorangi area have noticed that meters are now being fitted to their incoming water mains. The Chamber has heard concerns regarding upcoming water tariffs, and has had an initial discussion with To Tatou Vai (TTV) to raise these matters. Further dialogue is expected, with an opportunity for full consultation before the TTV's tariff policy is formulated. In any event, Chamber is advised that billing for water is not imminent.

Featured New Chamber Member



Vaine Nooana-Arioka makes things happen!

With a personal vision "A financially independent Cook Islands", Vaine is presently serving in Moana Minerals Ltd as Community Engagement, after fourteen and a half transformational years, ending in

July 2023 as Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer for Bank of the Cook Islands. Vaine's banking experience includes serving with ANZ and CIBD, and is underscored with a Masters in International Economics and Finance (University of Queensland) as well as an Affiliate in Development Bank Management (Asia Pacific Institute of Development Finance). It is important to lend your talents where needed and one which Vaine has nurtured by active service outside of the banking world, holding various board positions in non-government and government organisations, including now the Cook Islands Chamber of Commerce, Mediation Cook Islands, Punanga Tauturu

Inc and the Cook Islands Business Trade and Investment Board. Vaine has also held membership with various women and girls organisations such as Cook Islands Women's Counselling Centre, Cook Islands Girl Guides, Cook Islands Business and Professional Women's Association and as Chairperson for the Finance Commission of the Cook Islands Red Cross.

New Members - want to promote your business here?

Forward your details to chamber@commerce.co.ck