

Fremantle Chamber of Commerce



147th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the
Fremantle Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, 20 October 2020 – 6:05 pm
At the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce Boardroom
16 Phillimore Street, Fremantle

MINUTES

1. PRESENT

The Chair, Mr Ivan Dzeba welcomed the distinguished guests and members to the 147th AGM and acknowledged retiring trustee Doug Kerr, new Trustees Jamie Murdoch & John Maucaulay, and Glen Dougall from the City of Fremantle who were present.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received and tabled by Treasurer, Mr Lee Bartlett as per below;

- David Mclean (Notre Dame)
- Neville Madder (Perth Security Services)

No further apologies were presented.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd October 2020, be accepted as read and signed by the President as a true record.

Moved: **Natasha Atkinson**
Seconded: **Peter Fear**

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ivan Dzeba thanked the members for attending and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we were gathered, the Whadjuk people and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

He acknowledged the challenging year 2020 presented, noting it has been a time of extraordinary change and circumstance, and the crucially important role the Fremantle Chamber plays in bringing together the business community and providing an active voice for business.

The Chamber has seen strong advocacy wins in 2020, such as the COVID-19 response for business, the membership survey, Water Corporation's Pipes for Fremantle Plan, raising awareness of the Southern Transport Corridor, input into the Victoria Quay Steering Group, positive outcomes for the City's plans for a Visitors Centre, and the Experience Fremantle from the Inside Project. As well as being the catalysts for activation ideas delivered by the City of Fremantle such as January's Dinosaurs in Fremantle, the Lego Activation, the recent WAFL Grand Final and our proposed Window Activation, planned in partnership with the City of Fremantle, for later in the year.

On a personal level, he stated he was most proud of the Chamber's work alongside St Pats, Uniting Way and Rise Network to bring Doorstep Dinners to fruition during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Ivan noted a successful 2019 Business Awards, with the event achieving strong recognition and coverage across the community, with the establishment of the "Winners Circle", that provided a strong focal point for how well we can do business in our historic Port City. The 2020 Fremantle Business Awards being held in November have already sold out and is shaping up to be the best Business Awards event yet.

Finally, the board had a positive year updating the Chambers Governance and Risk Procedures and restored financial deficit from 2019 which has enabled the commencement of urgent conservation on the historic chamber building and set aside a provision for loan repayment.

Ivan thanked fellow Board members for volunteering their time to make a difference to the Fremantle region and local economy, Vice President Franco Andreone, Treasurer Lee Bartlett, Natasha Atkinson, Marc Greco, Sarah Casey, Nathan Maxwell and new Board members Nick Gzovdin and Pete Adams. Ivan Also thanked members of all 3 committees, Development & Infrastructure, Tourism and Small Business and Retail and their Chairs, and CEO Danicia Quinlan and Chamber Staff – Michelle, Marian, Chelsea, Kellie and Giselle.

Ivan paid tribute to retiring Trustees John Longley and Doug Kerr for their incredibly long history with the Chamber, support across many decades including personal support to himself which he described as invaluable and presented Trustee Doug Kerr who was in attendance with a small gift of appreciation and invited him to say a few words.

Trustee Doug Kerr spoke of his time at the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, beginning his personal journey with the Chamber in 1984 when he came from the Naval Base and started at Shacks Holden, which had already been a member of the Chamber since 1923. Doug noted “Fremantle First” and the interior restoration works of the Chamber as part of the legacy of which he was very proud.

Ivan welcomed past President and Committee Member Bob Shields and past Chamber Treasurer and Board Member Jamie Murdoch to join John MacCaulay as a new Chamber trustees and thanked them for accepting the role.

5. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Danica Quinlan presented the Chief Executive Officer’s report.

Danica commended the passion, vision and hard work of the Board, the Committees, the Chamber staff and Chamber members to help drive a significant change program that has resulted in a completely new and positive energy around the Chamber this year.

Danica recalled noting the very challenging end to the financial year in 2019 at the Chamber as the depth of the significant restoration work outstanding was uncovered on the beautiful and majestic 1912 Phillimore St home, an inherited debt, deficit and a declining tenancy and membership base.

Danica noted the following milestone KPI achievements:

- 80% completion on Phase 1-2 of the restoration works to ensure it is now water-tight and has mortar between all bricks of her long standing walls. She noted Chamber Members SIDI Construction have done an outstanding job addressing the work that needed to be done and flexibly approaching other things that arose as is often the case in restoration works of this size and on buildings of this age. The Chamber is going to look to generate further funds over the next 12 months to start Phase 3 works to the rear façade of the building.
- A 24.3% increase in the membership base, noting the diversity of the membership base.
- Achieving full tenancy of the building just prior to COVID-19 – up 17% on budget, with the newly released 2 leases during COVID-19 now back under offer.
- An increase in Export income up 7% increase up on budget, with no losses across the COVID-19 period.
- Social media engagement up 529% on Instagram, 40% on Facebook and 34% on LinkedIn.
- A total 1,478 individuals attended Business After Hours, Leadership Lunch, and Learning events across the year, with 728 individuals downloading The Chamber’s newly initiated podcast “Set the Month in

Motion” Episodes established in partnership with the City of Fremantle’s Business Capacity Building program. This structure provided the Chamber with an incredibly strong platform as we transitioned to online events during COVID-19 lockdowns earlier in the year. Danicia noted it is these connections that sit at the heart of how we can come together to make a difference and create better connections between our business leaders.

COVID-19 presented a unique set of challenges and risks. The Chamber developed a strong risk management strategy from the outset which enabled the protection of staff but also continue to be present at the Export Desk for manual certification and continue to engage members through digital events and advocacy positioning.

Dancia was noted the work with St Patricks Community Centre, Uniting Way and the Rise Network to initiate “Doorstep Dinners”, in a 7 day turn-around from idea to production, with the assistance of Minderoo and the McCusker Foundation delivering around 18,000 meals. Noting the incredible program that delivers social and economic returns is now being modelled in Perth and the Hills, a significant achievement for all involved.

Significant activities in 2020 included the COVID-19 business response, lobbying federally for the Exporter Assistance Packages and International Flight Assistance Program, Pipes for Fremantle Project, Visitors Centre, Victoria Quay, Fishing Boat Harbour Visioning, Tourism WA “our story” campaign lobbying, anti-social behaviour, #freoletsgetcreative pivot promotions and our new #doingbusinessinFremantle campaign. Danicia commended the Committees efforts to develop strong position papers has resulted in significant responses.

The Chamber have welcomed the Department of Communities and Transport as Corporate Partners and initiated a drive to explore Fremantle From the Inside. Distributing some 40,000 explore Fremantle maps from the partnership with Hello Perth and offering unique tours across the City to their employment base of some 1,900 individuals, as well as ensuring all those who come into Fremantle each day could find the treasures that make this place so unique. The Chamber also welcomed the merger of the Fremantle Tourism Association (FTA) with the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee.

During COVID-19 lockdowns the Chamber extended it’s digital reach via online forums and live feed sessions, including two Q&As with State and Federal Elected members and Ministers. The total reach for these digital events was 432 business leaders between March and June.

In conclusion, Danicia thanked the small team at the Chamber, the generous Corporate Partners and Sponsors, the Board, Committees and members who are the life and energy behind the Chamber for the commitment, time and resources to helping achieve the outcomes presented at the 147th Annual General Meeting.

Dancia noted the positivity of the strong platform that has now been created

enabling the Chamber to exceed the targets set in the Strategic Plan and that this time next year we will be looking at a very different Fremantle.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

The President called on the Treasurer, Mr Lee Bartlett to present the 147th Annual Financial Report.

Lee made note that he was very pleased to be presenting a different outcome in comparison to the financial deficit the Chamber was faced with in 2019. As in the Financial Report starting on page 20 of the 147th Annual Report the Chamber has ended the financial year in 2020 with a \$51,000 surplus. Lee also noted that this was a great rebuttal for the Chamber to be involved in and especially thanked the CEO Danicia Quinlan for efforts since starting the new role to bring the Chamber out of financial deficit, as shown in the increase in revenue across Export, Membership and Property, which in the year that 2020 has turned out to be is a great achievement for the whole team.

As a matter of attention Lee addressed the following in the financial report to the members:

- The building evaluation decrease reflected in the statement of Non-Current Assets in page 21 of the Annual Report. He noted the new valuation, that the Chamber undertakes every two years took into account the land title being owned by the State and stating the Building can only be used as a Chamber, which in turn would make the building worth less in a commercial value if the Building was to be sold. This differed from the result of the 2018 valuation which was undertaken by the Property Agent and did not take into account the title.
- The addition of debt to the balance sheet through the loan to invest in the preservation of the Chamber Building, to which the earned funds this financial year would be applied.

The President called for questions from the floor.

Chamber Member and previous Board member Tony Riggio queried why the building valuation isn't \$0 and the detail of the current evaluation figure if the title states the building is only to be used as a Chamber of Commerce.

The CEO informed Tony that the valuation that was completed in 2018 was completed by a real estate property agent as opposed to a registered commercial valuer. The property agent valued the building at what the building would be worth if it was sold in a commercial market. The building in its state with the clause on the title still has value to the Chamber and earns income through its tenancies as well as holding value in the building itself.

Lee also noted the valuation takes into count revenue and profit generated by the Chamber in the way of rent, plus additional revenue generated by Chamber adding to the value in a commercial market.

The President asked for the audited Financial Report to be approved.

Moved: Marc Greco
Seconded: Tony Riggio

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2018/2019

It was moved that Francis A Jones be appointed as Auditor for the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce for the financial year 2020/21.

Moved: Tony Riggio
Seconded: Kevin Sanderson

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2019-2021 TERM

The President declared that, in accordance with the Constitution, Declares that, as at the time of this meeting, there is 3 nominations for the vacant Board position hence the following are duly elected for the year 2020-2022:

The following were duly elected unopposed for the terms as follows:

Name	Position	Term	New Term Expires
Lee Bartlett (TAMS)	Treasurer	2 years	2022
Marc Greco (Engineering Consultants Australia)	Board Member	2 years	2022
Danielle McNamee	Board Member	2 years	2022

The President congratulated the new board members.

President noted the following from the Constitution:

12.3 The President was elected directly by the Members in 2019 and the Board shall appoint, by simple majority, 2 of its members to the positions of Vice President and Treasurer.

12.4 Term of Office for Board Members:

Board members are elected for a term of 2 years. The terms are staggered, with the terms of half of the Board (at least 4) expiring and being open for election each year.

Ivan thanked fellow Board members for their contribution throughout the year.

Ivan also noted there have been nominations received for Chamber committees , those will be ratified as appropriate in the next Board Meeting (November 24th) and new committee members will be contacted.

9. PROPOSED SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF MEMBERS OF THE FREMANTLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

It was proposed the current constitution of the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce Inc. be amended by the adoption of the 2020 constitution of the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce Inc. in substitution of and in replacement of the current constitution in its entirety, updated under the terms of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015.

President asked for questions from the floor. There were no questions put forward.

Moved Tony Riggio
Seconded Natasha Atkinson

Motion was passed by special resolution with 28 eligible voting members raised hands in favour.

10. Induction of Honorary Life Member

Ivan thanked Franco Andreone current Vice President and Development and Infrastructure Committee Chair for his guidance over the years in regards to governance, risk and custodianship and work on the Greater Fremantle Action Plan and as spoken presented Franco with the well-deserved Honorary Life Member Certificate.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Ivan acknowledged the work and efforts of retiring trustees Mr Doug Kerr and Mr John Longley and acknowledged appointment of Bob Shields and Jamie Murdoch as Trustees of the Chamber of Commerce.

Ivan also acknowledged Sarah Casey who has resigned from the Board, and Nathan Maxwell who is also resigning for his invaluable input into the Export.

Ivan asked for any further questions from the floor.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

With there being no further business, the President declared the 147th Annual General meeting closed. The formal proceedings concluded at 6.35pm.

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Ivan Dzeba
PRESIDENT

DATE