

BUSINESS HUNTER

HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD
ACN 083 977 459

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2022
at Rydges, Wharf Road, Newcastle, NSW 2292

Meeting Opened at 12.30

Present:

Richard Anicich	Lauren Eyles	Peter Lawrence	Nathan Roberts
Katie Brassil	John Fishetti	Holly Martin	Jenny Roberts
Daniel Brauer	Jim Garis	Martin Matthews	Simon Rocco
Alex Brennan	Hamish Geddes	Andrew Olsen	Tim Ryan
Seamus Burke	Peter Gesling	Simon Page	Genelle Scotts
Annalisa Ceccato	Diane Hamer	Owen Pascoe	Ross Taggart
Hennie du Plooy	Ashleigh John	Ian Pedersen	Glenn Thornton
Scott Edden	Wayne Johnson	David Pring	Paul Tobin
Peter Evans	Amanda Kerr	Mitchell Purvis	Steve Wait
		Tony Rhodes	Brad Woollett

In attendance:

Richard Brown	Nadine Judge	Nathan Malcolm	Neil Standen
Rebecca Frendo	Jo Lackenby	Sheena Martin	Lee-Anne Sylva
Lester Gellatly	Derrek Lush	Simon Murphy	Justine Ulph
Bob Hawes	Katie Luton	Nick Novak	Michael Ulph
Hayley Heaton	Paul MacCartney	Matt Sherer	Simon Ward
Ian Hutchinson	Cameron MacPhail	Peter Shields	Justin Watts
			Wendy West

Item	Minute
1. Opening and Welcome	The President Tony Rhodes chaired and opened the 2022 Annual General meeting at 12.30 and welcomed members and guests to the meeting.
2. Call for Apologies	Apologies were received from Natalie Mitchell, David Le Marchant, Clayton Barr MP, David Harris MP, Sonia Hornery MP, Taylor Martin MLC, Brad Webb, Paul Murphy OAM, Pat Cooper, Peter Allen, Rod O'Neill, Jeremy Bath, Sam McSkimming, Simon Walsh, Jos Crepelliere, David Harding, Steven Lee, Valentina Misevska, Brad Garrard, Alex Zelinsky AO, and Luke Reeves and were noted.
3. Confirmation of 2021 Minutes	The Minutes from the 2021 annual general meeting, circulated prior to the meeting were noted. The chair noted there were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting.
4. Presidents Report	The chair addressed the meeting and noted that despite the challenges for Business Hunter there were significant achievements on the back of increased regional collaboration and support from Business NSW. The

BUSINESS HUNTER

HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD ACN 083 977 459

Item	Minute
	President's report is attached.
5. Annual Review, Financial Statements and Auditors Report	<p>The chair noted that the financial position for Business Hunter for the year was a deficit on a cash basis, showing a net operating loss of (\$29,188). This was an improvement on the forecast loss of (\$37,000) and down from the operating surplus of \$9,832 in 2020-21.</p> <p>The chair noted the Financial Statements incorporating the audit statement and annual review had been circulated prior to the meeting. The chair called for the adoption of the Financial Statements. The annual report incorporating the Financial Statements was endorsed on the motion of Jim Garis, seconded by Glenn Thornton.</p> <p>The chair noted one proxy from the Special Member (NSWBC) had been received appointing the President as their proxy.</p> <p>The chair acknowledged the support from the NSWBC in preparation of the accounts and thanked the work of the Audit and Governance committee and Martin Mathews from PKF, the independent representative on the Audit and Governance committee.</p>
6. Appointment of Auditor	<p>The chair moved to item 7 of the agenda and moved that BDO Audit Pty Ltd be appointed as auditor for Hunter Business Chamber Ltd. Seconded Hennie du Plooy, carried.</p>
7. Special item	<p>The chair announced the bestowing of Hunter Business Chamber Life Membership to Katie Brassil and presented a gift on behalf of the board and membership.</p>
8. Declaration of Directors and Office Bearers	<p>The chair noted there were three nominations for the three Director roles vacated by the respective resignations of Peter Gesling, Dianne Hamer and Paul Tobin. Jim Garis also resigned as Local Chamber representative.</p> <p>Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution there was no need to conduct a director election and the chair declared the directors Board and Executive for the 2022/24 term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren Eyles, President • Glenn Thornton, Senior Vice President • Holly Martin, Vice President • Tony Rhodes, Immediate Past President • Hennie du Plooy, Director • Genelle Scotts, Local Chamber representative and Director • Ashleigh John, Director • Seamus Burke, Director • Peter Lawrence, Director <p>The chair noted Natalie Mitchell, director for NSW Business Chamber Ltd will continue on the board as the NSWBC Ltd representative.</p> <p>The President thanked the outgoing directors, Dianne Hamer, Jim Garis,</p>

BUSINESS HUNTER

HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD
ACN 083 977 459

Item	Minute
	Peter Gesling and Paul Tobin for their contribution, service and dedication and also the Business Hunter staff for their assistance and support. Incoming President Lauren Eyles presented a short address and presented a gift to Tony Rhodes on behalf of the board and membership as a token of thanks for his time serving as President.
9. Other Business	There was no other business for which due notice had been given.
Close of meeting	The meeting closed at 12.50pm followed by a short video of the year highlights.

Confirmed: Date:
(President)

BUSINESS HUNTER

HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD
ACN 083 977 459

Hunter Business Chamber Annual General Meeting – Presidents Address 25 November 2022

Tony Rhodes, President

It is my pleasure to provide the President's Report for the 2021-22 financial year.

Recognising that Covid 19 is still prevalent in our society and without wishing to tempt fate or disregard possible future variants, it appears that 2022 will be recognised as the year our community and business in particular, began to emerge from the most debilitating impacts of the most confronting pandemic of our time.

This has been an incredibly challenging period for all and that many have been impacted far more than your Business Hunter team, it has still been a great relief for us to get back toward the operational behaviours that most of us took for granted pre Covid.

Who knew that face to face events were so precious and real human interactions so deeply appreciated? There are some valuable psychological lessons from the past 2 years that we will all benefit from absorbing, and I think the Business Hunter team can be rightly proud of their contribution to the Hunter Business Community re-engaging as soon as was sensibly practical.

The board of your organisation identified early that the effects of the pandemic went well beyond the physical and direct medical cost of avoidance, illness, isolation and workplace absences. We have all paid a personal price that comes from uncertainty, and massive disruption to our routine expectations. We thus determined to lead the way in reinvigorating the Hunter Business Community's social, networking and industry awareness events. We were suitably rewarded for our courage with our members resiliently embracing the return of face-to-face events and enthusiastically participating in all forums. Our Infrastructure, Innovation and Mining series events all drew good attendance as did our Business Development Forums.

In January we hosted a delegation from Japan including the Ambassador, Consul General and significant business leaders. This opportunity to showcase our region and introduce Hunter Business to the world was followed throughout the year with visits by other delegations similarly interested in the future of the region and the benefits of improving contact to advice trade and business opportunities.

Our CEO Bob also represented us in a delegation to Singapore of Hunter Business leaders to investigate trade and global connection opportunities for both the airport and the port of Newcastle. This unprecedented global interaction reinforces the fact that ours is an increasingly connected world and the Hunter's prominence within it continues to grow.

In March, alongside and in partnership with UON we held the inaugural Hunter Nexus dinner. This event which grew out of conversations between Vice Chancellor Alex Zelinsky and our CEO Bob Hawes was a wonderful example of the benefits of close collaboration between education and business and has quickly become a thrice yearly must have ticket.

Staying true to our position as the leading voice of business in the Hunter and our BNSW President's encouragement to influence not just advocate, we played a leading role in our Regions discussions with policy makers on our place in The Greater Cities Commission, the future of energy for our state, defence/health industry opportunities and the skills/labour shortage that is hampering business across

BUSINESS HUNTER

**HUNTER BUSINESS CHAMBER LTD
ACN 083 977 459**

the world. The Powering Business 2050 Summit in June was a great example of Business Hunter leading the discussion, with 2 days of thought-provoking ideas and discussion.

Just after the 2022 close off, August saw the return in full capacity of our annual business awards, providing further evidence of our desire to gather and celebrate, with record entries and a rapidly sold-out event. Although overseas at the time and unable to attend personally, from all reports it was a fantastic night.

Therefore, with my term as President about to end I look back fondly on the efforts of our amazing Business Hunter team, who though not large in number are huge in can do attitude and achievement.

To my fellow board members, I say thank you for your support and congratulations on the progress made toward our goal of improving the collaboration and co-operation across all industry organisations in our region. In an increasingly connected and interactive world it is vital that regions like ours accept that competition is global not local. For too long the Hunter has been characterised as lacking unity in its goals and identity. Therefore, it is great to see our region working more collectively to improve communal outcomes rather than fighting over which bits we individually receive. A rising tide obviously lifts all ships and therefore provides greater opportunity for everyone to decide where and how far they wish to sail.

The Hunter Valley in 2022 is truly a serious player in the global game of life and this presents great opportunity for us all. I wish you well in your endeavours.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

25 November 2022