

Hello.

Welcome to the inaugural AGM of the Fiordland Business Association (FBA). The past 18 months have been likely the most challenging time this business community has faced. From the devastating flood in February 2020 to Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent loss of international visitors for our tourism sector. Rising compliance costs and new regulations particularly for our rural sector through to increasing product shortages for our construction sector. Across almost all sectors a shortage of available labour is being felt. There never has been a more critical time for our business community to come together to have a united voice to advocate on our behalf and support each other than now.

Ebel Kremer, Deputy Mayor, called a public meeting in November 2020 with a significant turnout of our business community and vocal support for an entity to advocate on our behalf. The first meeting of the Fiordland Business Association transition volunteer committee was held on the 14th of December 2020. The committee have been as active as possible, given we are all under the same time pressures of business and personal life as most of our community. We are proud to have achieved and been involved in the below over the past 7 months:

Timeline of FBA transition committee activity:

- **14th Dec 20** – Initial meeting to appoint Chair, Deputy Chair and a name.
- **Early Jan 21** - Met to develop FBA's purpose – To **advocate, connect & support** our Fiordland Business Community.
- **Early Jan** - Advocating for a smooth transition from Destination Fiordland (DF) to Great South (GS) in late March, liaising with Great South + DF.
- **11th Jan** – First transition committee meeting – 8 further meetings held until end July 21.
- **14th Feb** - Lodged our disappointment in a letter to the DOC regarding the delayed decision of the Snowdon Forest Mountain Biking Project, proposed by Te Anau Cycling Inc.
- **Feb – May** - Developing the constitution and subsequent incorporation of the society. A huge thank you to Breidi from Cabot Lodge for helping with this.
- **8th March** – Public meeting at the Fat Duck to update businesses, 35 attendees.
- **18th March** - Meeting with Minister Nash to lobby for funding for tourism businesses.
- **8th April** – Co-hosted with Great South – Ministry of Social Development MSD, APM, Connected and NZ Immigration to update businesses on available employment support, immigration, and recruitment opportunities.
- **Mid-April** - Formalised partnership with Southland Business Chamber including SBC taking on administrative and financial functions of the FBA. Special thanks to SBC for their support so far, they have been outstanding.
- **15th April** - Attended Southland Business Chamber new member mixer to welcome first 21 members on board
- **End April** - Christine Wallace, FBA interim Committee member, was co-opted onto the Southland Business Chamber board. An important appointment as it gives Fiordland a voice and ears at a regional discussion level.
- **Through April + May** - Membership drive – 6 functions and drop-in sessions for businesses to meet with the committee to find out more about 'why join the FBA?'
- **19th May** – Officially incorporated.
- **20th May** – Public Meeting Update, The Alpine Centre - 30 attendees.
- **1st April 21 Meeting** - Stakeholders identified – SDC, Fiordland Community Board, DOC, Environment Southland, Great South, Southland Business Chamber, Federated Farmers.
- **11th June** – Tradies Event – The Alpine Centre – 15 attendees.

- **June 21** - Work done to scope further utilisation of the Te Anau Airport with relevant operators being approached to consider offering flight services from Te Anau. Work ceased due to current limited demand caused by low tourism activity here but could be picked up in the future.
- **7th July 21** - Hosted a Business Breakfast with Richard Roberts, Airport CEO – well received
- **22nd July 21** - Hosted Great South to present Dark skies, available funding for tourism operators and marketing activity update.
- **Ended 23rd July 21** - Nominee and voting process to create our inaugural committee.
- **27th July 21** - Inaugural AGM

The general advocacy theme for the FBA to date have been the impact of Covid-19 on our tourism business community, being the most pressing need. However, the FBA's purpose is to advocate for all business sectors including rural, retail, hospitality, building and construction and general services and we will be looking to include more and more members from different sectors in the years to come.

The formation and activity of FBA to date has been due to the volunteer hours of the transition committee. This has been a collective collaboration of the following people as individual time would allow:

Cameron Davis (Chair Jan - Feb) – Fat Duck

Brad Molloy (Chair Feb – Mch) – Te Anau Top 10

Ebel Kremer (Chair Apr – July) – Mr Green

Kate Norris (Deputy Chair) – Trips & Tramps

Callum Bruce – Te Anau 4 Square (Jan – Mch)

Daniel Anderson – The Ranch

Nathan Benfell – Shakespeare B & B

Nigel Humphries – Anchorage Motel

Kylie Krippner – Wings & Water

Christine Wallace – Fiordland Outdoors Co. + Milford Sound Lodge

From the transition committee, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to our business community by getting the FBA up and running. We wish the inaugural committee all the best for the challenges ahead.

Signed

Transition FBA Committee