





Short Biographies of our Board Members

- NZGBA Committee 2011/2012 -

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| <p>Erich Bachmann, President</p>  | <p>Erich Bachmann is the Managing Partner of Hesketh Henry, a New Zealand law firm based in Auckland which was established in the 1860's and currently has approximately 50 lawyers. His principal areas of practice are corporate and commercial law, particularly in mergers and acquisitions, securities law, foreign investment, investment products and advertising law. Erich is also the President of the New Zealand German Business Association and the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Auckland. Besides these jobs Erich is a director of the Lawlink Group Limited, an organisation of 18 independent law firms throughout New Zealand. Erich is fluent in German and Spanish.</p> |
| <p>Grant Bevin, Vice President</p>  | <p>Grant Bevin is Managing Director of Business World Travel, a company established in 1992 specialising in business travel management as well as group and executive leisure travel solutions. BWT also specialises in international trade fairs which closely relates the firm's links to Germany. Besides his own business activities, Grant currently holds the position of Vice President at the New Zealand German Business Association and is also a board member and shareholder in the 50-agent group First Travel Group.</p> <p>Grant graduated at Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania, having completed the 'Advanced Management Programme' and a short course in 'Business Strategy' and has extensive experience in the field of travel and tourism reaching back to the beginning of the 80ies when he started as a trainee with Air New Zealand, followed by various roles at Lufthansa German Airlines.</p> |
| <p>Robert Knox, Treasurer</p>  | <p>Robert is the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee at Instant Finance. Robert is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of NZ and was the managing partner of the BDO Spicers Auckland office until his retirement in December 2006. His areas of practice included business advisory, valuations, insolvency and general taxation. Robert is currently the Chairman of Mentum Group Holdings Limited and Adhesif Print Limited and is the Chairman and Trustee of a number of Charitable and private Trusts.</p> |



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| <p>Mark Gilbert</p>  | <p>Mark Gilbert is Managing Director of BMW Group New Zealand, which includes both the BMW and MINI vehicle brands. Mark has worked in the automotive industry for more than 25 years and his experience includes establishing and leading the local subsidiary of the BMW Group in the Philippines.</p> <p>Mark represents the BMW Group New Zealand on the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development and is deputy-chair of the New Zealand Motor Industry Association.</p> <p>The BMW Group is the world's leading manufacturer of premium, luxury vehicles. The BMW Group has topped the automotive industry in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the last six consecutive years, largely thanks to its BMW 'EfficientDynamics' sustainability strategy.</p> |
| <p>Dean Sheed</p>  | <p>Dean who has a BComm in Economics and Marketing and a post Grad Diploma in Finance is the General Manager of Volkswagen New Zealand, which is part of European Motors Distributors Ltd, a locally owned company within the Giltrap Motor Group. The company has a range of passenger and commercial vehicles, spanning mainstream to premium product and a dealer network from Whangarei to Invercargill. They have been the #1 European brand for over 7 years and are now expanding into business markets nationally with transport solutions. His Volkswagen experience spans over 10 years and prior to that he held many Sales and Marketing positions at Ford Motor Company.</p> |
| <p>Paul McPadden</p>  | <p>Paul has worked in the New Zealand tax field since 1990. During this period, he has worked as a tax lawyer with Inland Revenue and has extensive tax advisory experience with KPMG. As well as advising clients on a broad range of domestic and international tax issues, Paul has been the head of KPMG's R&D incentives practice since 2006. Paul is also lead tax advisor to a number of New Zealand's leading sporting and community based organisations</p> |
| <p>Joanne Hand</p>  | <p>Joanne Hand is the Managing Director of REALTECH Ltd, a company that helps New Zealand businesses to gain a competitive edge with world-leading SAP enterprise management solutions.</p> |

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| <p>Oliver Bohm</p>  | <p>Born and raised in Germany Oliver joined DB Schenker in Hamburg in early 1992, following the completion of a three year degree in Logistics Management. Having held key positions as Vice President Global Business Development Air Freight and General Manager Freight Forwarding & Logistics previously, Oliver Bohm is now the Managing Director of Schenker (NZ) Limited.</p> <p>One of his strengths is to develop and build highly effective and successful teams which focus on their customer's requirements and provide tailor-made solutions. Oliver's extensive international experience, combined with a strong focus on productivity, has proven to be valuable in this fast paced and ever changing industry. With more than 25 years of experience within the global DB Schenker network, Oliver has worked in Hamburg, London, Perth, Sydney, San Francisco, Salt Lake City and New York. In New York he contributed as a member of the CLM Round Table and participated in other industry related affiliations. Oliver, together with his wife Annika and son Tyler, arrived in NZ in February this year.</p> |
| <p>Jim Bibby</p>  | <p>For the past decade Jim has headed the STIHL Company in New Zealand. As Managing Director he is responsible for the STIHL organisation and its operations here and in the Pacific Island territories. Jim's background is in business development and strategic planning. He has been involved in manufacturing based businesses for the past 20 years and is current President of the NZ Outdoor Power Products Association, a position he has held for the past 6 years.</p> <p>Under his guidance STIHL has steadily increased its local market profile and grown its core business market share. Jim is the architect of the STIHL SHOP™ retail modernisation program currently being rolled out to NZ specialist servicing dealers nationwide.</p> <p>Married to Diana, they have two adult children and five boisterous grandchildren. An avid sports follower and former age-group representative in cricket and soccer, Jim now confines his physical activities to side-line support of the younger generation.</p> |
| <p>Captain John Robinson</p>  | <p>John Robinson spent 14 years in the Merchant Navy before settling in New Zealand in 1974. He joined the Scandinavian shipping consortium 'ScanZeal' in 1976 and has continued with the Norwegian owner, Wilhelmsen for the last 35 years covering all aspects of liner and tramp shipping. He is the Chairman of Wallenius Wilhelmsen logistics New Zealand as well as the Chairman of Wilhelmsen Ships Service. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport and the President of Shipping New Zealand (NZ association of ship owners and ship agents) as well as the Honorary Royal Norwegian Consul for Auckland and has been a member of the NZGBA executive committee for over 15 years.</p> |

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Paul Ravlich



Paul joined Siemens in September 2007 having returned to New Zealand from Australia, becoming CEO NZ in November of the same year.

Prior to joining Siemens, in Australia, Paul was Managing Director of Bosch & Siemens Home Appliances (BSH) responsible for both Australia and New Zealand, based in Melbourne.

Paul moved to Australia at the beginning of 2002 as General Manager for Bosch Home Appliances prior to the establishment of BSH in the Australian and New Zealand markets. He had previously run the NZ arm of Bosch Home Appliances, which he set up in 1989 and ran for 13 years.

Paul's earlier career included seven years in the oil and gas industry during the eighties, based in the Middle East and the Far East as well as working on exploration projects in Pakistan, India and Western Australia.

New Zealand-born, Paul returned home at the end of 1986 where he was involved in the fledgling cellular communications market before joining Bosch.

Outside of work, Paul's interests include reading, current affairs, health and fitness along with an enthusiasm for cooking, food and wine.

Stephen Diver



Stephen Diver, the Managing Director of SDR, has had extensive professional experience in New Zealand, Germany, Austria, Poland, Australia and Russia. After working for the New Zealand Treasury as an economist and serving as the New Zealand Trade Commissioner to Germany and Eastern Europe for 6 years, he returned to New Zealand to set up SDR.

His background is in the arts (MA in Philosophy and Russian, University of Victoria, New Zealand) and business (MBA, University of Otago, New Zealand). Commanding various European languages, he has an excellent understanding of cross-cultural exchanges and how this impact on international business.

This helps him to bridge the cultural chasm between Australasian companies and their potential overseas partners or purchasers. Stephen specialises in making connections, setting up deals and leading negotiations between parties.