



**TOURISM HOLDINGS LIMITED**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

**Held at the Heritage Hotel, Auckland  
on Tuesday 10 November 2009  
at 1.30 p.m., pursuant to a  
Notice of Meeting previously circulated to all shareholders**

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**PRESENT:**

**Directors:**

K R Smith (Chairman)	RGM Christie
G W Bowker	D Gupta
G Wong	

**THL Executive Staff:**

G Webster	K Hoare (Secretary)
I Lewington	S Sullivan
M Lim Chong	Q Hall

**Shareholders and Other Attendees:**

73 people

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr Graham Gosney

**MEETING OPENING:**

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 1.30 p.m. and welcomed shareholders to the twenty third Annual Meeting of Tourism Holdings Limited.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman, Mr Keith Smith, introduced to the meeting all Directors, Mr Grant Webster, Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ian Lewington, Chief Financial Officer, Mr Kevin Hoare, Secretary to the Board and advised members of the Executive Management team were present. He advised that representatives from the Auditors and the Legal Advisors were also present.

The Chairman confirmed that a quorum was present and that the notice of meeting was sent to all shareholders recorded on the register on 24 September 2009 and to other persons entitled to receive the notice.



## **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING**

The Chairman advised that the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting (held on 11 November 2008), were approved by the Directors at their first meeting following that Annual Meeting. He advised that the minutes were available for review with the Board Secretary after the meeting if any shareholder so desired, and were also posted on the company's website.

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

Net Profit After Tax (NPAT) for the 2009 financial year was positive at \$2.9 million, boosted by the gains on sale from Kelly Tarlton's and the Milford Sound businesses. The continuing businesses' NPAT loss was \$1.4 million. At a divisional level this reflected a Ci Munro EBIT loss of \$3.6 million and a loss of \$2.5 million in the New Zealand Explore More business.

The increased EBIT in the tourism businesses – up \$0.7 million to \$3.9 million – was a positive reflection of the restructuring work completed towards the end of the 2008 year to enable these businesses to operate on a standalone basis with lower costs. The board would like to thank our crew in the Fiji business, who have had another year of crisis management with the floods in January and the ongoing political unrest, but they still managed to produce a positive EBIT.

The core rentals business produced an EBIT of \$9.4 million, down 65 percent on the previous year. The rental vehicle industry has suffered from ongoing cost increases over recent years in mechanical parts, servicing, build costs and property costs which have not been able to be recovered through increased yield in the current environment.

Revenue was targeted aggressively in the rentals and the tourism businesses, and we believe this has positioned **thl** well for any significant rebound in tourism activity in our region.

The company has weathered global impacts over the past ten years, and this year we again took the appropriate action to protect the business.

We have considered it prudent to refrain from paying dividends at this point given the EBIT performance. Balance sheet strength is fundamental in today's environment. **thl** with an equity ratio of 57 percent along with tangible disposable assets has a balance sheet that could even be considered conservative. This is one aspect of the business that we believe sets us apart from the competition.

During the year, we had pre-committed capex for fleet which had been ordered before the global financial crisis. This volume reflected a shortfall against production expectations from the prior year. As such the net capex spend of \$53 million (excluding sale of business receipts) was higher than desirable in the environment we subsequently encountered.

This financial year we are forecasting capital spend (including the Waitomo visitor centre development) to be in the range of \$45 million - \$50 million, and we expect vehicle disposal proceeds of approximately \$22 million – producing a net capital spend in the range of \$23 million to \$28 million. With this lower level of capital expenditure we are forecasting to produce a strong free cashflow in the coming year. **thl's** ability to manage and produce positive operating cash flows is one of the strengths of the business.



Indicative of the global economic uncertainty, **thl's** share price was very volatile over the course of the year, with a high of \$0.95 and a low of \$0.40. The share price today is still close to 50 percent below the Net Tangible Assets of the company. As demonstrated by the ongoing margins generated on the sale of used vehicles, we believe, the book values of the fleet are realistic. Further to the value in the fleet and Net Tangible Assets, we also see significant value in the intangibles, which include the licenses and leases to operate our world famous Waitomo businesses.

The 2009 result included some key highlights for the business. Our investment over the past three years in our information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure has started to provide pleasing returns through market share gains in the online environment.

The debt position for the company improved throughout the year, with tight control of forward capex commitments and positive performance in the sale of vehicles. Net debt of \$58 million was down from \$78 million the previous year.

In the first half of the year we commenced a programme of change at Ci Munro to recover from the EBIT losses of the past two years. The move from Otorohanga was the right decision however a combination of factors including increased production demand coupled with a change in design and ongoing difficulty in recruitment created an untenable situation.

Changes have been made in the operating structure with a move to a more assembly-based operation and a complete revamp of the underlying operating methodologies. This has seen the business move to a more stable platform.

Profitability will improve in this business as volume increases. The issue today is that there are lower volumes for both our own build and external demand for new product. There have, though, been successes in the business. I would also like to thank the team at Ci Munro and Action Motor Bodies for their outstanding work with the District Health Boards across the country. Their new dental health units are commencing operation throughout the country and have been positively received.

### ***Strategy and Outlook***

Recent history has shown, again, that the rentals industry as a whole is not achieving the yields required to produce the level of returns that would enable growth and innovation over the long term. We do have a focus to improve returns, through revenue enhancement and a three-year change process in regard to the cost structure of the business. Given the life cycle of our vehicles it will take this time for the full benefits of change to be apparent.

We have been talking about the strategic change project in the business over the past three years and the board is pleased that we are now positioned to maximise the core competencies we have as a rentals-centric business with a focused tourism division. The Board is pleased with the manner in which the executive has changed the way they operate to align with a functionally-based business, and we believe the business is already benefitting from having a more singularly focused team. Grant will expand on this in his address shortly.

The recovery curve for the tourism industry is still uncertain. As consumer confidence grows which benefits arrival numbers, we then have to battle an increasing currency and – more importantly – a risk that airlines may start to further cut capacity rather than stimulating demand through pricing, as they have done over the past six to twelve months. We continue to stay focused on assessing the future and ensuring we



have the right business model to succeed. Grant will discuss the outlook for the industry in more detail.

For the first half of this financial year we are forecasting a net loss of between \$1 million and breakeven. This will be a large improvement, on a like-for-like basis, compared to the same period last year which was a net loss of \$4.8 million. There were a number of one-off costs in the continuing businesses last year that, by their nature, are not expected to recur in this half. There have been positive improvements in the Ci Munro performance, better than expected revenue in Australian rentals, and a continuation of the improved tourism businesses performance.

It is important that this improvement is not seen as an indicator of the full year result. Based on current booking levels the second half is indicating a decline in rental hire days together with lower production levels at Ci Munro compared to the second half period last year.

The full-year position is still unknown and, given ongoing changes in buying patterns, the fluctuations in currency and the current forward book, we are not in a position to provide realistic year end guidance at this point. We will expect to be able to discuss the year-end expectations in the half-year results announcement next February.

Given the balance sheet strength and the company's financial stability, if these early signs of improvement continue during the balance of the financial year we would expect to resume the paying of dividends in the latter part of the calendar year 2010.

### ***Election of directors***

As in every annual meeting, one of the formal items on the agenda is the election of directors.

Rick Christie retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

Rick has been an independent non-executive director since early 1998 and chairs Tourism Holdings' Audit Committee. He is currently Chairman of EBOS Group Ltd and Argenta Ltd, and a director of Wakefield Health Ltd and the NZ Pork Industry Board. Rick is an Accredited Fellow of the NZ Institute of Directors.

Deepak Gupta also retires by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election

Deepak, a non-executive director, was appointed in October 2007. Nominated by Sterling Grace, *thl's* largest shareholder, Deepak is not an independent director.

Deepak has almost 20 years' experience in the financial services and investment management industry in New Zealand. He is an executive director of Trustees Executors, and has also worked at senior management level for major institutional investors such as Westpac Investment Management, Royal and Sun Alliance and AMP; in private equity investment; and in general funds management. Deepak has been a director of a number of companies as an investor representative. He is a director of Over Fifty Group Ltd, which is ASX listed, and various private companies.

Rick Christie and Deepak Gupta will speak briefly when the relevant motions are under consideration.

Half way through the past financial year, with the economic crisis in full swing, *thl* took the appropriate action in downsizing the business. Further to that, a wage and



salary freeze was implemented. These actions have not been easy for the dedicated crew across the business. The Board recognises the efforts and difficulties of operating in this environment, and applauds the work carried out to ensure that the equity in the business has remained intact whilst a keen focus has been maintained on future requirements and opportunities.

I will now invite Grant to the podium for his presentation.

#### **4. CEO'S ADDRESS**

Thank you Keith for the introduction and welcome all to **thl's** annual meeting. As you are aware, this is my first address to you as CEO. Unfortunately it coincides with one of the most difficult trading periods in the company's history. Pleasingly, we are here today with the confidence that we are in a strong position within the market, and that the work to realign the business strategically over the past few years was the right thing to do at the right time.

Today I will outline my view of the last financial year's results, provide an update on the nature of the company, including our key areas of focus, and give some **thl** views on the industry outlook for the coming year – although uncertainty will still be the theme.

There is no doubt that the NPAT result of \$2.9 million was well below our aspirations, and reflected broad industry issues as well as some impact from internal areas of concern including Ci Munro's manufacturing performance. On the positive side, we are financially stable – relationships with our debt providers are very strong, with acknowledgement that we have assets that are mostly tangible and fairly valued, and we have good control over our capital expenditure.

We are today a rentals-vehicle centric business with a financially sound and focused set of tourism businesses. Our earnings before interest, tax depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) are strong and, as the graph shows, have remained very positive despite the recessionary impacts. The benefit for you as shareholders is that we can, for short periods of time, create strong operating cash surpluses and thus ensure balance sheet stability is maintained. We have proved this throughout tourism impacts in the past and there is no indication that this time will be any different.

We are a different company to what we were in the past. The major strategic changes of the past three years have been completed and we are ready and poised for a positive future.

We have refocused the organisation over the last year towards a new operating model. The divisional approach is gone, corporate office is gone and we all operate today as a functional team working from retail premises. The business make-up today provides the opportunity for **thl** to maximise its core competencies, scale, infrastructure and brands in the rental vehicle space. The other businesses we hold provide multiple intangible benefits and, importantly, provide a return well above our cost of capital.

This year celebrates the 10th anniversary of the coming together of the Britz and Maui businesses. Whilst the first few years were difficult – especially in Australia – we now reap the rewards from the geographical spread and scale, and we will



continue to see more benefits from the differentiation of both these brands along with Backpacker and Explore More.

We must remember that we hold what is most likely the second largest rental motorhome fleet in the world. This creates leverage opportunities we need to maximize. Australia now provides more than 45 percent of **thl's** total revenues and has, over the past year, provided the benefits of operating in a larger economic market. In particular, we have had great support across a comprehensive dealer network for vehicle disposals, new opportunities to expand into growing locations and the ability to stretch fleet utilisation across multiple operating seasons and locations. I see Australia as an ongoing growth market for us over the coming years, especially as we further adapt the operating model to cope with the difficulties of distance, terrain and costs associated with multiple locations.

From inception both the Maui and Britz businesses had a thirst for innovation. Over the past 10 years **thl** has led the industry in new product development. Even through the global crisis we have continued to develop new product. This year we will again step forward and launch a new six-berth product which I will discuss later.

New Zealand has some outstanding success stories with inspiring companies that have design as a core part of their business. Examples like 42 Below, Air New Zealand, Fisher & Paykel, Icebreaker. Our aim is to be another one of those success stories – not just in product, but in creating outstanding holiday experiences, through skillful and innovative IT development and in utilising our crew to continue to take our brands forward. These are the themes for **thl** today as we move on ambitiously towards a quick return to sustainable profitability and change the business model to deliver higher growth and returns beyond the cost of capital. We anticipate that it will take three years to see the full benefits in our results of the changes we are making today. This is the nature of our product life cycle.

The past financial year has affected the broader tourism industry in general. There are estimates in Australia that there have been more than 30,000 job losses in the industry, and in New Zealand we know there have been impacts on development and reinvestment opportunities. Within the rental vehicle sector there should be some longer-term benefits from this crisis, particularly with the change in approach from banks and finance providers. For some time the industry (most particularly in the rental cars segment) has attracted some operators who have been able to purchase vehicles with minimal equity. They have then operated to lower compliance standards than ourselves and grown without the costs and other issues associated with completing a full fleet rotation cycle with a larger fleet.

Some of these lower tier operators may well exit the industry due to lack of profitability but I believe this will take some time yet. The rental car model (and indeed motorhomes) can survive on cash flow for some time and operators can create further cash through vehicle sell downs. This is an exit strategy available to them, and some are clearly on this path today.

During the last financial year we sold a number of businesses which has been well documented. Moving on to the results in our continuing businesses.

In September 2008 we were entering into the unknown. Customer forward bookings had dropped dramatically into the key profit months and all operators had begun to fight on price to gain what little volume seemed available. Our lead times changed dramatically creating difficulties in forecasting and pricing.



Costs for the year were up \$22 million, or 18 percent, on the previous year. Looking from an individual business perspective, \$5 million related to the Explore More business development, \$2 million to increases in ICT infrastructure and \$1.6 million to restructuring costs including redundancies and the reorganisation of Ci Munro. Looking across the key cost codes within the businesses, increases were seen in depreciation of \$6 million, and repairs and maintenance of \$3 million. The increased depreciation reflected an increase in fleet, build costs with more larger vehicles, and an increase in rates of depreciation for older vehicles as they reached higher kilometer marks.

Kiwi Experience has just celebrated its 20th birthday! In the first quarter of the year we concluded the sale of the Kiwi Experience's fleet to Johnston's Coachlines, reducing our asset base and enabling more flexibility in departures.

We had good progress at Waitomo, with Black Water Rafting continuing to perform with increased profitability. The 2005 greenfields Ruakuri cave development is now reaching a visitation level that is seeing a strong EBIT margin being produced, with further growth expected.

There are four key operational (current business) focal points for the coming year:

1. Ci Munro Focus
2. Explore More
3. Operational Vehicle Costs
4. Productivity Improvements

### **Ci Munro**

We have asked serious questions about the position of this business within the **thl** portfolio. Our thorough review of the business over the past 12 months has led to the conclusion that it does have a sustainable strategic position within the business model we operate.

A greater orientation towards assembly has brought more simplicity to the business. Productivity has increased, stock management has improved, quality processes have been enhanced and we have commenced significant cost savings, with changed production methodologies and new procurement benefits.

These changes have brought a turnaround in profitability in the second half of the financial year, with an EBIT loss of \$0.4 million compared to a loss of \$5.2 million in the prior corresponding period. Moving forward, the coming year will still be difficult for this business as we deal with lower demand. We have capacity in the facilities and will look to grow the size of the workforce again as we look forward to growth in build demand.

I have mentioned that design is a core theme of **thl's** future, and Ci Munro is a critical part of that process. A key learning, however, which is now well embedded with the board and executive, is that we must operate within our means at Ci Munro and temper any desires to grow beyond our capability. Practically, this means we have a clear expectation for this business to deliver a cost of capital return when we return to a normal rotation cycle.

We have throughout this year proven that we do have the skills and expertise to deliver.

A good example is the execution and commencement of the three year contract to build over 90 dental health units for District Health Boards across the country. These units are impressive in design, functionality and buildability.



The range includes a screening unit, a drivable one room surgical unit with a towable version available, and a large towable two room surgical unit.

We have moved very carefully into this project with the DHBs and are pleased with progress to date which is operating in line with all the original projections.

### **Explore More**

The strategic intent of this business was to secure our space in the price-conscious youth and discount markets, keeping competitors from moving up the value chain and enabling a longer life for our smaller non-toilet shower product. I am confident this strategy was correct and we are achieving all these goals. Explore More did drive revenue and grow **thl's** market share, however the yield achieved and pressure on demand meant we had an EBIT loss of \$2.5 million for the year. As a result we have embarked on a cost reduction program to enable us to maintain the strategic imperatives without creating a drag on the result. Operating at this end of the market is different and we have had to adapt the back end procedures to create much greater leverage of the broader **thl** systems, people and infrastructure. We are on track at this point in the turnaround, and we expect the business to deliver to this year's expectations, and to be beyond the breakeven point in the 2011 financial year. As we refine the operation and gain greater confidence in the operating model we will continue exploration of new markets within the discount sector with this brand.

### **Operational Vehicle Costs**

The past year has seen considerable increases in the purchase prices of materials, and in the number of accidents we have been exposed to (which appears to be nothing more than a statistical anomaly). In addition, we have made an investment in improved technology to lower future operating costs.

There are a number of work streams in place across the business to reduce these costs over time, but the safety of our customers will not be compromised and we need to continue to provide enhancements in the experience for customers.

Nuts and bolts activities like using technology and design to minimise customer mistakes (like leaving the hand brake on while driving) and leveraging procurement benefits with other partners will create greater margins and deliver the results we require. Another great example is the increased use of solar panels on product, enabling greater flexibility for the customer, improving battery life for the vehicle and, over time, reducing costs.

Such operational considerations are, for this business, critical to the EBIT per vehicle returns we expect.

### **Productivity Improvements**

From September last year we instituted a focus on aligning labour levels in the business to the decline in demand. Throughout this process we were careful not to target direct customer facing roles, and focused on reducing activity in support areas as well as the realignment of Ci Munro. This did provide some financial gains for the business, but productivity improvements for **thl** today mean focusing on the following:

- Creating a more engaging and efficient customer experience, from prior to booking until well after the holiday
- Improving the costs to produce and take rental vehicle products to market
- Improving the life and utilisation of the vehicles



The investment we have made in technology is enabling a lot of this change, along with the committed approach of the crew to simply do things differently.

The operating cash flow for the business last year excluding fleet purchases and sales was \$31 million, the same as the prior year. Last year's fleet capital expenditure of \$71 million included a catchup in production from Ci Munro as a result of the productivity and supplier issues that hindered 2007 and 2008.

The ongoing challenge for the business is to manage the capital spend in line with demand increases and reduce the lead time on vehicle production to maximise demand at short notice.

Our vehicle sales were in line with expectations throughout the year. Whilst total sales of motorhomes in New Zealand and Australia appeared to reduce, we benefited from customers moving away from newer purchases and entering the market with our second hand product. Anecdotal evidence also suggested that, with a lack of confidence in the financial sector, some customers were more willing to commit to a hard asset at an earlier point in their lives than they would otherwise have been.

### **The Way Forward**

The *thl* business model is simple.

Today we are ensuring we stay equally focused on the three key elements of the model.

Build — with a value-for-money proposition  
Rent – in multiple markets to multiple segments  
Sell – at varied stages of life to enhance value

Within this model we have over the past year embarked on, and completed, a number of initiatives positioning us well for the future.

### **Our brands**

We have the broadest and most well known collection of rental motorhome brands in our markets. On review we are clear that all of our brands have a place in the market however they have been operating too closely. We are now in a position to expand the space between these brands and stretch them beyond their current differences.

Maui – has a classic positioning as a premium operator. We will enhance this positioning and move further towards the high end of the market.

Britz – this year reached new highs in brand awareness in both New Zealand and Australia. With the broadest product range, the Britz brand has the capability to expand the total market size, making the type of experience we offer accessible to a wide variety of customer interests.

Our Backpacker brand has no limits on the target customer age. This brand has grown in stature as customers demand more choice about what they include in their holiday packages and to make the decisions on the components that are important to them.

Explore More has an edge and attitude that lends itself to the discount and youth market, and is very upfront about being a true low-cost operator.



### **New Initiatives**

We have opened a new retail branch in downtown Auckland. Located on the CBD fringe, this site now also houses a number of the business support teams. Recently, we also opened a new agency in Ballina on Australia's east coast, leveraging the Brisbane operation and fleet.

One of the initiatives in place is our new six-berth design. Whilst still under construction, the prototype vehicle is meeting all our original objectives, as indicated on the screen.

The vehicle has been through a rigorous and comprehensive design process. The result is simplicity, quality and more space for customers to sleep, relax and enjoy.

Leveraging the investment and strength in information technology is critical. For us, this is more than just online sales – it is utilising the skills our crew have to enhance the holiday experience. Over the next year we will be launching new pre-travel communication options including DVD show throughs utilising both technology to a greater degree and our 24/7 reservations team.

Another new enhancement will be an online and onsite Self Check In facility. We don't strive to meet the style of experience you can get today when checking in for an airline flight at the touch of a button or the swipe of your phone – but there are clear ways these technologies can apply to help us grow our revenue and improve the experience of the customer.

The activities we are undertaking may be replicated, but with both Microsoft MOSS technology and our own reservations and fleet management systems we now have the ability to complete more of these initiatives, faster and at a significantly lower cost than competitors... and to adapt them across brands and markets with ease.

It should be an annual theme to comment on the growth and importance of online travel. We have again had a record year in online sales due to additional marketing and website functionality improvements.

We were pleased recently when our Kiwi Experience website won a Microsoft Partner award in the social media space.

As in previous years, the Kiwi Experience business has given us a platform to trial new technologies.

Today our drivers blog with their customers from past and present, we help customers share what they are doing through multiple social networking sites even while they are on the journey with us, and we go searching for compliments and complaints to ensure that we listen and act as we should.

Remaining authentic and honest through these processes is important, and reminds us no one can hide.

### **Waitomo**

The Waitomo group of businesses has performed well over the past year and maximised every dollar of revenue.

We would obviously have preferred to have had the rebuild completed at least two years ago, but we are moving forward today at pace. The result should be an iconic building.



The new building will have increased revenue generating facilities. This gives us confidence to more aggressively market our product after nearly four years since the fire. We are strongly targeting growth in visitor arrivals to the area from both domestic and international visitors.

We are positioned for long-term growth in Waitomo and we have a complimentary set of products that require little ongoing capital investment to deliver the experience.

The building is on budget, with weather being the only notable cause of delay. We expect the core building to be completed in the first half of the 2010 calendar year, but we will commence new marketing only when the full business is operational towards the September school holidays, to maximise the high season opportunities.

### **Tourism Outlook**

From a *thl* perspective, demand remains uncertain in both Australia and New Zealand.

We are very fortunate in New Zealand to have the Prime Minister remain such a positive voice for the industry. At a time when the government has committed to holding expenditure in general, it remains focused on finding ways to enable tourism to receive more funding and deliver greater returns to the economy. We applaud the recent announcement of \$20 million additional funding. In Australia, additional funding of \$9 million has been announced and the economic stimulus package has, in our view, created clear benefits in ensuring that tourism infrastructure remains up to date. In the last financial year we had a tax gain of \$1 million as a result of the additional investment allowance the Australian government allowed for capital expenditure put in place by June 30th 2010. This initiative did encourage us to spend more in fleet development in Australia.

Both national tourism marketing organisations have new leaders starting in January 2010. I offer *thl*'s support and encouragement to both Kevin Bowler in New Zealand and Andrew McEvoy in Australia. Both have indicated a stronger push towards online growth and, as indicated, I believe we are well positioned to benefit accordingly.

We would also like to see Tourism New Zealand and Tourism Australia work more closely together to benefit the region as a whole. The work on easier customs and border access, for example Smart Gate, between the two countries is a good example of the benefits that can be gained.

History shows that tourism will recover, and there is enough airline capacity in the world today to ensure it continues to grow. The two-to-five-year outlooks from both Tourism Australia and Tourism New Zealand all indicate positive growth.

Airline capacity and pricing are two critical issues we are watching closely to assist in assessing future demand.

In recent times Australia has seen increases in the number of airlines operating, the number of flights operated by discount players and the capacity of aircraft on key routes. We all know there are great specials on many routes around the world, and there is little doubt this is stimulating demand and balancing issues with the exchange rate changes. How long this will last we don't know... but it is creating new customer behaviours, as indicated in the annual report.

Currency is always an issue for tourism when at the current high exchange rates. The immediate impact may be greater this year on the backpacker market segment.



The recession doesn't appear to have stopped backpackers travelling however their spend on the ground certainly diminishes as the currency moves upwards.

More importantly for us, we continue to watch consumer confidence in key markets as an indicator of future potential.

This leads to the inevitable question of expectations for visitor arrival numbers. As mentioned in the annual report, we agree with the forecasts provided by Tourism Australia and Tourism New Zealand. For our general market mix this still indicates a drop in visitors of between three and five percent, although we now believe it will be closer to three percent.

Looking further forward, we believe there is enough confidence for gains in the 2011 financial year.

We need to stay flexible in our approach at the moment, and be ready for demand lifts when they commence.

Keith has indicated our views on the first half forecast loss of between \$1 million and breakeven.

### **Strategic Direction**

Today we need to both improve our underlying business performance and continue to conservatively develop new growth opportunities within the markets we operate in. I have discussed the improvement paths for both Ci Munro and Explore More and I look forward to reporting positive improvements in both those businesses at this time next year.

We will continue to grow core profitability in our existing operating markets.

Our balance sheet is strong and we have kept a close eye on various and different opportunities in Australia, New Zealand and the United States. We believe we could grow further today and will not discount opportunities, but we stay mindful of the uncertainty in the environment.

In conclusion... we have had a difficult year. We now have fewer people, and with the number of projects on the go they are all doing more. The focus of the executive has moved to the next stage of development following the strategic realignment, and we are focused on achieving a quick recovery in profitability.

As I approach the conclusion of my first year in this role I know that we have as a company stepped forward from an established strong foundation despite the ground moving around us. We are moving at pace today, and I can assure you all that you have a management team that is aligned and focused on change.

Thank you. I will now pass back to Keith.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Chairman stated that Tourism Holdings Limited had received 285 valid proxies representing 38% of the votes able to be cast.



## **7. RECEIPT OF REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORT OF THE AUDITORS**

The Chairman moved that the financial statements together with the Annual Directors Report and Auditors report for the year ended 30 June 2009 be received by the meeting.

The Chairman called for questions on the financial statements.

Mr David Ackerley – shareholder – asked whether consideration had been given to running mini tours aimed at the middleclass and senior citizens and what tie up the business had with Air NZ. Mr Grant Webster replied that **thl** had moved out of the tour market business with the sale of JCL and Great Sights. He also replied that **thl** has a good relationship with Air NZ as **thl** are the exclusive supplier of campervans with Air NZ.

Mr Dass Chabra – shareholder – asked if the annual report could include the ages of directors in order to judge their experience. Mr Keith Smith replied that it would.

Mr Adam Wright – shareholder – asked how the yield and utilisation was tracking for the current year. Mr Grant Webster replied that due to the commercial sensitivity of this information it is not disclosed, however he is comfortable how both are tracking.

**Moved by:** Keith Smith

**CARRIED**

## **7. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Chairman advised that in accordance with Tourism Holdings Constitution, Mr Rick Christie retires by rotation and being eligible, offers himself for re-election. In addition Mr Deepak Gupta retires by rotation and being eligible, offers himself for re-election. He asked each Director up for re-election to briefly speak. Both Mr Rick Christie and Mr Deepak Gupta addressed the meeting as to their reasons for seeking re-election and what they can offer to the company.

The Constitution requires that each of the motions be put separately.

Re-election of: Mr Rick Christie

**Moved:** Keith Smith

**CARRIED**

Re-election of: Mr Deepak Gupta

**Moved:** Keith Smith

**CARRIED**

## **8. AUDITORS**

The Chairman moved the re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors for the company and to authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the ensuing year.

**Moved by:** Keith Smith

**CARRIED**



## **9. QUESTIONS FROM SHAREHOLDERS**

Mr Brain Kennerley questioned whether the admission card forms that were handed in were used in the proxy count. Mr Keith Smith replied that they were not and that the motions were passed on a show of hands not by ballot.

Ms Thelma Wright asked why there are no women board members. Mr Keith Smith responded that there have been women board members in the past and that there will be in the future, the board will be reviewed and refreshed over a period of time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2:30pm

**MINUTES** of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of **Tourism Holdings Limited** were confirmed this 7 December 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Smith', is positioned above the printed name.

**Keith Smith**  
**Chairman**