

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting**

of

***The New Zealand
Cake Decorators Guild
Incorporated***

Friday 3rd November 2023

Held on Friday 3rd November 2023 in Napier War Memorial Centre, Napier at 1.30pm

Welcome

President – On behalf of the Executive Committee it is a privilege to welcome all delegates and observers to the 37th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated. Of our 30 branches we are represented here today by delegates from 23 branches, 4 represented by proxy, and 3 branches are not represented.

I now ask that we observe a few moments silence to acknowledge those who have suffered serious illness or bereavement over the past year. Thank you.

Apologies

I now call for apologies.

Secretary – We have received one apology from South Canterbury Cake Decorators Guild

President – Are there any apologies from any other branches please? No

May I have a mover for apologies be to accepted?

Mover: Janice Slater, Wairarapa Secunder: Carol Wadams, Franklin

All those in favour please say aye, those to the contrary please say no. Any abstain?

Carried.

Selection of Scrutineers

President - Three scrutineers are needed from among our observers to count and check votes. I now call for two volunteers from the South Island and one from the North Island please.

May I have a mover that Bev Hartley, Hillmorton, Dorothy White, Whangarei and Joy McKenzie, Napier be accepted as scrutineers?

All those in favour say aye.

Beth Fuge, Malborough (Proxy) / Debbie Turner, Franklin / Carried

President - Thank you. Scrutineers can you please go with Frances and she will give you your instructions.

Minutes

President - The Minutes of the previous AGM have been distributed to all branches.

Secretary - I move that the Minutes of the AGM of NZCDG Inc held on the 4th November 2022 be taken as read.

President - Can we have a seconder please?

Sharlene Fraser, Secretary / Shona Ross, Hillmorton / Carried

President - Are there any amendments required to these minutes? - No - Thank you.

Secretary - I move that the Minutes of the meeting held on Friday the 4th of November 2022 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

Sharlene Fraser, Secretary / Jenny Thomas, Tauranga / Carried

President - Are there any matters arising from the minutes? No.

President – Sharlene, would you present the correspondence, please?

Secretary –

Correspondence since November 2022

Inwards

President	Approved AGM Minutes 2022
Nominations & Profiles	Executive 2024 Nominations & Profiles
Marlborough	Discussion Point
Tauranga	Discussion Point
Exec	Discussion Point
Exec	Discussion Point / Remit
NZCDG Inc. President	Annual Report
Magazine Editor	Annual Report
Judges Co-ordinator	Annual Report

Outwards

President	AGM Minutes 2022 for approval
All Exec, Branch Secretaries	2023 AGM Agenda, Executive Nominations, Treasurer's Report & Guidelines for Delegates, EOY Financial Accounts
Lone Members	2023 AGM Agenda & EOY Financial Accounts

I move that the Outwards Correspondence be confirmed, and the Inwards Correspondence be received.
Sharlene Fraser, Secretary / Mieka Conner, Taieri Plains / Carried

Matters arising from the correspondence.

President - Are there any matters arising from the correspondence? No.
There are no matters arising from the correspondence.

Financial Report

President - The reviewed Financial Report for the year to the 30th of June 2023 has been distributed to all branches.

Treasurer - I move that the Financial Report of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc for the 12 months to 30th June 2023 be adopted.

Maria Moreno, Treasurer / Janice Slater, Wairarapa / Carried

President - Branches wishing to ask questions at the AGM regarding the Financial Reports were requested to pre-advise these before the 15th of October 2023.

Hillmorton have submitted questions, would a representative from Hillmorton please read them out.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – Our first question was, has the NZCDG Inc looked at the price of magazine delivery by DX Mail in comparison to NZ Post?

Does the \$400 Microsoft 365 software annual fee include Microsoft Teams software and if it does why are we paying a separate annual licence fee for Zoom, where Microsoft Teams is the equivalent service?

If Microsoft Teams is not included in the package, has the cost to upgrade it been considered as it should be cheaper to upgrade than the Zoom annual licensing fee?

And, why are the Monday Post-Conference workshops still being held when they appear to run at a loss each year and so few members are attending them?

Treasurer – So after thorough research and discussion about the DX Mail our conclusions are that NZ Post remains the most cost-effective option for bulk mail.

Our annual Microsoft 365 subscription fee is currently at \$165 and this is expected to increase to \$179 for the 2024 year. It's important to note that our current subscription does not include Microsoft Teams, if we were to add Teams the annual cost would rise to approximately \$800. Given that our Zoom subscription is \$250 it is more cost-effective to stick with our existing set-up.

Workshops are not operating at a loss, last year we generated around \$160 in revenue and this year we are on track to break even. If the workshops were consistently incurring losses, we would certainly reconsider their viability.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – Can I respond to that?

President – Certainly.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – We took by reading the accounts that it made \$100 and something loss, the post-conference workshops last year.

Treasurer – No, that was, if you could look at both years, and there were two years on the financial report, and that didn't include some of the expenses that would be previous to that. So, you have to compare all the years.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – Could in future, to make it easier for members to understand, could we actually get an overall breakdown of the costs of conference as a whole. Cause we assumed that that was a loss that was made over the entire conference. We didn't realise we needed to look back at the previous year.

President – We do put out a spreadsheet with that information on it for conference each year.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – We haven't received one. Or I have had not had one passed onto me if it has gone to the Treasurer.

President – We will look into that to make sure you do get it. Everybody should get a breakdown of conference and post-conference workshop costs. Ok.
Thank you, Penny.

President – Are there any further questions? No.

Are there any other matters arising from the Financial Report? No

President- The Exec Committee has recommended to all branches that Subscriptions for the year commencing 1 April 2024 be increased from \$46 to \$50 for general and lone members, and \$70 for overseas members.

Would any branch like to comment before we vote? No

You will need your coloured cards, Yes, No or Abstention. All those in favour please raise your Yes card, and the scrutineers please count them. Cards need to be held right up, thank you.

Penny Trim – Hillmorton – (very faintly) Our members were ok with the increase but some of our others weren't if the magazine went digital. Can we vote for putting the membership up after we have decided if the magazine is going digital cause how else do we... We were a no but we are also a yes, because it all comes down to if we go digital or not. If we go digital we are a no. But we are a yes if we don't go digital. So I'm not sure how to vote on it.

President – I know what you mean, we struggled with that ourselves, where you slotted in.
I will read this out now.

It's essential to recognize that it's not just the cost of printing and distributing the magazine that has increased, all expenses have risen. Even producing a digital magazine would involve additional costs. While we have reduced Executive travel by conducting Zoom meetings, it's not the ideal situation. This year we managed one face-to-face meeting in Dunedin to inspect the venue for 2024. Only Sue, Sharlene and I visited Napier. Organising a conference becomes challenging when only a few committee members have seen the venue. Solely meeting by Zoom makes team collaboration more challenging and limits our interaction with branches across the country. Unfortunately, we lack the funds to send an executive member to assist branches with recruiting new members and other needs. To continue magazine production,

maintain two in-person meetings per year, update the website or even transition to digital magazines, a subscription increase is necessary. Continual cost-cutting would leave us in an underfunded organisation unable to provide value to our members and potential members. While we've previously surveyed members about a digital magazine, the feedback indicated a preference for a printed version. However, our constitution does not mandate a printed magazine, and the executive believe that the decision should ultimately rest with the members. This executive, though, would prefer to transition to digital when deemed necessary and with member's agreement.

Does that help to a certain extent?

So, shall we retake the vote? All those in favour please raise your green cards. 18

All those against please raise your red card. 7 Any abstentions? Carried.

So, the fee for the year commencing 1 April 2024 will be increased from \$46 to \$50 for general and lone members, and \$70 for overseas members.

Thank you. We will now move on to the President's Report.

Presidents Report, 2022

Michele Barnett presented her report and moved it be adopted (*included at the end of these minutes*).

Michele Barnett, President / Judith Crosland, Central Otago / Carried

Election of Officers

You have all been emailed the names of those nominated for each position.

President

President – As I am standing for President with the permission of the meeting I will now hand the Chair to Vice President Frances Dalton-Hayward.

All those in favour please say aye.

Anybody against? Abstentions?

Carried

Vice President – I now declare the position of President to be vacant. There is one nomination for the position of President, Michele Barnett, Tauranga. As there are no other nominations, I declare Michele Barnett elected, President of the NZCDG Inc for 2024.

With the meetings permission I will now hand the chair back to Michele.

All those in favour please say yes

Anybody against? Abstentions?

Carried

Vice President / Secretary / Treasurer

President – I now declare the positions of Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to be vacant.

There is one nomination for Vice President, Frances Dalton-Hayward, Marlborough. As there are no other nominations, I declare that Frances Dalton-Hayward elected Vice President of the NZCDG Inc for 2024.

There were no nominations for Secretary. Karen Gargiulo has been appointed to the position of Secretary. I declare that Karen Gargiulo as Secretary of the NZCDG Inc for 2024.

There is one nomination for Treasurer, Maria Moreno, Eastern Southland. As there are no other nominations, I declare Maria Moreno elected as Treasurer of the NZCDG Inc for 2024.

Committee

President – I now declare the 3 Executive Committee positions to be vacant.

The nominations for Executive Committee are Sandra McSherry, Redwood, Sue White-Parsons, Tauranga, Jude Tosh, Eastern Southland.

As there are no other nominations, I declare that Sandra McSherry, Sue White-Parsons and Jude Tosh are elected to the Committee positions for 2024.

Thank you to all those who made themselves available for election.

Magazine Editors' Report

President – I'd like to call on Sandra McSherry to present Christine Cecil's Magazine Editor's Report. Christine Cecil is one of your demonstrators so is just a little bit tied up at the moment.

Sandra McSherry presented the report, Christine moved her report be accepted. (*Included at the end of these minutes*).

Christine Cecil, Magazine Editor / Debbie Turner, Franklin / Carried

President – Sue has just popped out to get the Judges Co-Ordinator. Maybe while we are waiting, we will do the Plaque vote.

Plaque Title for 2024

President – The plaque title options for Dunedin 2024 are:

Scarfie Life

Wild Dunedin

Destination Otepoti

In your packs you have some paper, could you please write which plaque title you wish to vote for and hand your vote to the scrutineers.

Judges Co-ordinator's Report

President – I'd now like to call on Marilyn Teague-Curnow to present the Judges Co-ordinator's report.

Marilyn read the report and moved that the Judges' Co-Ordinator's report for 2023 be accepted. (*Included at the end of these minutes*).

Marilyn Teague-Curnow, Judges' Co-ordinator/ Colleen Renner, Westland / Carried

President - Are there any questions for Marilyn? No

Plaque 2024

We can now announce the Plaque Title for 2024, it will be 'Scarfie Life'.

General Business:

Discussion Points

We have received two discussion points, from Marlborough Cake Decorators Guild and Tauranga Cake Decorators Guild which cover the same topic. Can I ask representative from each branch to read out their discussion point before we open the discussion.

Could a representative from Marlborough please read out their discussion point. Thank you.

Beth Fuge, on behalf of Marlborough (Proxy) – On behalf of Marlborough Cake Decorators Guild I would like to submit the following discussion point for NZCDG Inc AGM.

Printing of the Magazine.

After discussing the cost of the NZ Cake Decorators magazine, we all realise that there is a lot of time spent to prepare the magazine and with the cost of postage going up and up, we need to look at cheaper ways of doing things going in to future.

Members all agreed that due to the low numbers of members New Zealand wide and the rising costs of printing the magazine, that we write and say we feel that the magazine should be produced on line only.

If there are any members who do not have computers that belong to a group that the NZ Guild leave half of that members subscription with the local group so they can download a copy for them.

We would like this motion to be put forward for the National conference to discuss and vote on.

Being on line it will also make it easier to zoom in on photos to make them bigger and easier to see the fine details on cakes etc.

We wish to thank the National Guild members who have done a wonderful job in the past and hope that by having a magazine on line that it makes it an easier job for everyone.

President – Thank you Beth. Could I have representative from Tauranga to read out their discussion point.

Jenny Thomas, Tauranga – We the Members of the Tauranga Cake Decorators Guild wish to submit the following discussion point for consideration at NZCDG Inc AGM to be held in Napier on 3rd November 2023.

Discussion Point: To Review the Distribution of the National Guilds Magazine to Members.

Currently the magazine costs approx. \$26.00 per year per person, with likely increases in postage and printing we could be looking at \$30.00 per year per person. We are indebted to Tauranga Executive Members, Magazine Editor, and some Tauranga members, giving their time currently to prepare the magazines ready for posting. This is unlikely to continue, which would add a further \$300 to the cost of the magazine.

It is our belief that the most economical way of distribution the magazine to members would be electronically via e-mail as well as the NZCDG Inc website through the Members only portal.

Where online services are unavailable members could possibly request a copy from their Branch Secretary.

We feel it is timely to open this up for consideration. Thank you.

President – Thanks Jenny. With the permission of the meeting the Executive would like to speak to this discussion point, then I will ask if anybody would like to speak and you will get the chance to speak for or against. This is a discussion point only, and does not change anything to the constitution. All those in favour of allowing us to speak first, please say aye. Against? Abstentions? Thank you.

The Executive acknowledges that transitioning the magazine is an inevitable step at some point. If members still prefer to receive a printed copy, the options would involve either their branch handling the printing and distribution or the national executive facilitating this, which may result in an additional cost to that member. It's important to note that this adjustment would not lead to a reduction in fees but could serve to mitigate the need for substantial future subscription increases.

Moreover, we must be mindful that embracing digital formats doesn't necessarily mean it comes free of cost. As we rely more on technology, we may need to invest in various software programs. While some software is available for free, my experience has shown that free software often comes with limitations and may not fully meet our requirements. Additionally, we must consider the need for members with the necessary technology skills and the willingness to produce a digital magazine.

Our aim in this discussion is to seek members' agreement to transition to a digital format when we believe it's the right time. The decision won't solely revolve around cost considerations but also encompass the resolution of any technology-related issues.

Does anybody wish to speak for or against this discussion point?

Debbie Turner, Franklin – While Franklin, and myself understand exactly where you are coming from. It's a big cost and at some point, we will have to go digitally, but if we did, we would like to see a decrease in the fees, of the Guild fees, to reflect that as they would no longer have the printing costs and the postage costs of this magazine.

We think that that would be fair. Cause then the members that don't have a computer the print costs would be on the club.

President - Thank you Debbie.

Sarah Moore, Gisborne – Just a question, could the magazine not be all put in one package and sent to the branch to distribute?

President – That has been done in the past and it wasn't particularly successful from what I gather.

Beth Regnault, Wairarapa – We in the Wairarapa, do like the magazine, we appreciate it, we have new members coming in, we show them what we get and what we do. And I think it is a learning curve for the young and the old. We the Wairarapa would like to up the magazine price if we want it. We are quite happy to pay. We have a lot of our people who don't have printers and we will lose our members. It's as simple as that. Thank you.

President – Thank you.

Colleen Renner, Westland – Yes, we were going to say about the magazines being popped into a \$10 courier bag and sent to each guild. And we also agree with putting the cost of the magazine up if that means keeping it. We are all for keeping the magazine. Thank you.

President – Thank you Colleen.

Mieka Conner, Taieri Plains – The Taieri Plains group are really keen to see the magazine go digital, many of our members are the opposite of these people, they feel that a printed magazine is a very expensive cost to the Guild and they would be just as happy to receive it to their emails, to go through that way. And we also talked about potentially making it a more regular, rather than a magazine, more like a regular newsletter. Making it a bit more frequent into your inbox, a little less content heavy every time but something you can read and digest easily and see, and keep you excited rather than something that is printed and sent.

President – Thank you Mieka.

Glenn Nicholson, Whangarei – Just a clarification when you are talking about having it on the website, you are also talking about sending a digital copy to people? Rather than just a link to the website?

President – We haven't quite worked through how it would be done at this point. There is quite a lot of technology issues to work through before we even put out a digital magazine.

Glenn Nicholson, Whangarei – I do understand that, but I do think it would be a shame if it was solely a link, for people to have link to the website rather than actually receiving the magazine in their inbox.

President – Thank you Glenn.

Judy Brunning, Horowhenua – We were wondering if maybe we could cut the amount of magazines, we get down to 3 a year?

President – It's always an option. 2 digital magazines and 2 printed ones a year. Maybe. That's just popped into my head.

So, we are still very undecided aren't we. Shall we have a vote on those branches that want to go digital sooner rather than later? And those that want to stay with the printed copy.

All those who would prefer the magazine to go digital sooner rather than later, please raise your green cards.

1. A totally digital magazine, sooner rather than later.
2. Printed magazine to continue, possibly at increased costs every year.
3. 50/50 Printed/Digital magazines per year.

Jenny Thomas, Tauranga – By introducing a third option here, which is as valid as the others, how can we as delegates vote when the instructions, we have brought from our guilds only been based on the first two options? I don't have the availability to put that to our membership, to ask them that third choice to do a vote on. So, I am wondering how we go round that at this stage, thanks.

President – This is only a discussion point. By asking for votes we will get a feeling of what the general membership wants. And maybe we do something by email further down the track. It is not something that has to happen immediately and there is pros and cons for both. So, it's not cut and dry.

So, for all of those who think that your branch would prefer a total digital magazine sooner rather than later, please raise your green cards. 8 votes.

Those who think their general members would prefer a printed magazine, please raise your green card. 12 votes.

And the spanner in the works, 50/50? 6 votes.

Comments from the floor, without microphone.

President – Change is good, but yes, I get it. And it will also mean doing it a little bit differently possibly for the Editor, and it does involve more technology and we do have to work through those issues. It's not always possible these days to actually email an attached PDF. There are programs to sort that and this is where the technology is not free thing. You need paid PDF software to be able to alter those files. So you are still in for a cost. So, all those things do have to be weighed up. So, at least your next magazine will be printed.

We have no hard and fast conclusion but the bulk of the people here have said a printed magazine. We will keep working on it, NZ Post I'm not sure when their next increase is due but the last one was 30%, that is a lot! So, it's an ever-moving target. Kale Print have been exceptionally good with their prices, they are very very good to us, and they are great to work with. The girls are still quite happy to come to my place and have a couple of wines and stuff envelopes, so that is lucky.

So, we will have some email correspondence, some further correspondence about this

Now the Exec have their discussion point. Which may help with the printed magazine.

The cost of our printed magazine has been a topic of discussion for a few years, and as the cost of producing and mailing it out keeps increasing our regular advertisers has been decreasing. As of July 2023, the bulk postage rates have gone up by 30%.

We would like you to consider whether we would be willing to open the advertising space to non-cake related businesses. Consider a nationwide chain, or a web-based business that our members might purchase from?

Would we be happy to have these businesses have advertising space in the magazine?

There may even be within our membership business owners that would consider advertising, or sponsoring a page. Or even a philanthropist amongst us that would sponsor a page.

Would anybody like to speak to our discussion point?

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – Our members do not agree with advertising by non-cake related places, but we wondered if it was going digital, perhaps we could look at reducing cost of advertising space to attract more cake related companies. And we also considered the cost that was requested from branches to sponsor a page, we understand that it's a lot less being charged for advertising space so maybe the cost of advertising currently needs to be looked at. Maybe there is room for it to go down to attract more people.

President – We have actually already put the advertising down for that very reason.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – We weren't aware of that.

President – Our biggest problem with advertisers in the magazine is that we only have 400 odd members, so it is not good 'bang for their buck' I am sorry to say. If we can raise our membership that would certainly help. Anybody else wish to speak.

Mieka Conner, Taieri Plains – One of the questions that our group asked was a bit more clarification around what was meant by other businesses? They felt that that definition was quite vague and that was more of a concern, and what kind of things would we be looking for to go in it?

President – Anybody who would give us the money honey.

Meika Conner, Taieri Plains – Not many, advertising like that doesn't work.

President – Probably an example would be a tyre company.

Secretary – A ladies clothing store

Meika Conner, Taieri Plains – Thanks, they just wanted a bit more clarification.

Secretary – We probably wouldn't accept an adult store.

President – Would anybody else like to speak?

Colleen Renner, Westland – Our Guild would agree with other advertisers for the magazine cause surely that's got to bring money in, bring the cost down for the magazine printing. So yeah, we're all in favour of that.

President – Would anybody else like to speak?

Debbie Turner, Franklin – Franklin thought yes to the advertising but it would have to be something that we would want to go and buy, not the paint shop. Unless it was paints for conference. But it still needed to have some cake relationship into it.

President – Perhaps a craft shop or ribbons or...

Debbie Turner, Franklin – yip, that kind of thing.

President – Thank you Debbie.

Glenn Nicholson, Whangarei – I think that anybody, apart from obviously the adult stores, advertising is a wonderful thing and if the Executive screw them down and say our members would get a 10% discount it would give us a reason to get our membership cards out. Cause at the moment they are not used for anything.

President – Bake Boss will give us a discount.

Beth Fuge, Marlborough (Proxy) – Marlborough is for the change, but they would like to be able to keep it to cake decorating. When you are looking for advertiser's, they would like to see it kept along the lines, like you just said with Debbie, ribbons and stuff. Things that cake decorators would use.

President – Ok

Beth Fuge, Marlborough (Proxy) – I was just thinking, online there is Hobbyland. They are quite well known and cake decorators do use a lot of there things. They have a lot of the things that we would be looking for. That's another option.

President – Ok. Anybody else wish to speak?

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere – Just on that, I seem to find most of my supplies now from hardware shops. You know, threaded rod, doweling, mdf, all those bits. I do get from the hardware shops so perhaps keep a slightly open mind on who can advertise.

President – Ok. Anybody else wish to speak? We'll put it to the vote.
Do we agree to open up our magazine advertising to those other than strictly cake decorating?

All those in favour please raise your green cards. Votes 21

All those against please raise your red cards. Votes 2

Abstentions. Votes 2 Carried.

We shall look into it.

Thank you to those who have sponsored a page, they are not advertisers as such, there is an odd branch and the odd person. They have just sponsored a page in the magazine because they would like to see it continue and we are very very grateful to those people, thank you.

Beth Fuge, Marlborough (Proxy) - For those interested, other people that would be interested besides myself, as sponsoring a page, how much is it?

President - \$65.00

Beth Fuge, Marlborough (Proxy) – Yeah, well that's easy enough for a member to do it and go around everybody and everybody sponsor a page to keep it going.

President - \$65.00 per page, per issue. And you may sponsor one issue or as many issues as you like.

The Executive committee has another discussion point: altering the conference and AGM date.

In our Constitution, Annex A, Bylaws of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated reads:

Conference:

The annual Conference shall be held over the weekend immediately following

- a. The first Friday in November
- b. Or the Friday immediately preceding the first Friday in November
- c. Or the Friday immediately following the first Friday in November

Date to be determined by Conference venue availability.

The date and place of each annual Conference....

We propose to change our conference date to starting either:

- Any Friday in April
- Any Friday in May

Date to be determined by Conference venue availability, statutory holidays and international cake shows.

NZCDG Inc. constitution reads that the AGM shall be once a year in conjunction with conference (Section 3.1), therefore if Conference is changed our AGM date changes also.

Our rationale being that it is getting harder and harder to obtain demonstrators from the UK, Europe, and America due to the fact the Cake International in the UK is held on the same dates each year as our AGM and conference. There is always the possibility that we may be able to piggy back off the Australian ACADA International Cake Show and bring some of their European/UK/American demonstrators across the ditch rather than further afield, hence the dates chosen.

If our dates were changed to the above then a remit would need to be passed to alter the Guild's balance date as the AGM needs to be no later than six months after that balance date.

Things to think about are:

Do we have a conference in April/May 2025 or just AGM by zoom?

Are we happy that there would be a partial year's accounts?

Would anybody like to speak to our discussion point?

Don't all speak at once.

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere – It was just brought up by a few of our members, we are all quite keen, but the fact we have ANZAC Day and Easter in the April.

President – That is why we have said, any weekend in April or May. To take all of that into account because that does change from year to year.

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere - So my question was, is it going to be a floating date.

President – Yes, and it needs to be if it going to be that time of year.

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere – Thank you.

Beth Fuge, Marlborough (Proxy) – Me again. Marlborough is all for having it after Australia, the conference thing. And yes, they would like April/May. And the zoom meeting which ever is to most popular.

President – Thank you Beth. Would anybody else like to speak to the discussion point?

Kathy Dempsey, Wellington – I would just like to read a comment from one of our members, who has said – We tried altering the dates back in 1988, but it didn't work. They said it was too hard trying to get to the South Island in wintertime so that was squashed. But this rationale is different and it is now with regards to international demonstrators from Europe/UK and America and if they can be piggy-backed over here after attending conference in Australia, it has to be good for us. But, will they be prepared to spend another week away from home making it three weeks in total? Could even be four. Also remembering that May is the first day of their English summer, do they want to come here for winter?

President – It's only May, it's not really winter here. It's actually much the same as this time of year, just back to front. Thank you.

Secretary, Canterbury (Proxy) – Their comments about altering the AGM. No, we do not support the alteration of the month to April/May. If different months were suggested we may support this. We say no to April/May due to the likelihood of Easter and/or school holidays falling in the same month causing higher costs to obtain accommodation and for travel.

President – I think we could probably work our way around that. Which is why we have got eight weeks to pick from.

Meika Conner, Taieri Plains – Just again, was going to reiterate while you're talking about public holidays that school holidays are probably your biggest concern. They typically fall around Easter anyway. But it is making sure you are well outside of that for flights and accommodation.

President – And it isn't a given that we would get demonstrators from Australia, but at least we have got a chance of that happening. Whereas any other time of year, no. We have really struggled to get overseas demonstrators from the UK, the States or Europe over the last couple of years. Most of them, their immediate response is, is that the same weekend as Cake International? And some of them we don't even hear back from. So, it is getting harder and harder and harder. And that's one of the reason Zoe Hopkinson couldn't come, her publishers were putting her under pressure to finish her book and to release it at Cake International. So, she had to pull out. And that is only going to continue. Really worth thinking about now.

Does anyone else wish to speak?

If not, we will put this to the vote.

We move that the conference and AGM date be altered to starting either, any Friday in April, or any Friday in May.

All those in favour, please raise your green cards. Votes 22

All those against, please raise your red cards. Votes 3

Abstentions, nil.

Carried.

So, the next thing to decide, is are we going to have a Conference in April/May 2025 or are we going to go to April/May 2026? That would mean that you would have conference in Dunedin in 2024 and then a conference in April/May 2025. Or you have nothing in 2025 and go straight to 2026.

All those who would like conference in April/May 2025, please raise your green cards. Votes 12

All those who would like to skip 2025 and have conference in 2026, please raise your green cards. Votes 8

So, there will be Conference in April/May 2025. No pressure.

So, because we have voted to change Conference dates, we need to put through a Remit to change the financial year. There are certain time parameters for this to happen, and to have everything filed with the Companies Office, there is a timeframe. So, to change it, we must change our financial year which means you will have a partial year's accounts. As it stands the accounts on the 12-month period that we work on, is a little bit tricky to understand because you have got conference and things in one year and some of it in the next year. It's not going to really make any difference to anything but you just need to know that there will be a partial years' accounts.

So, the Remit. In the Remit we have date and it has been brought to my attention that the date isn't going to work, so we will put through the Remit with the existing date, and then we will alter that date.

Remit

We, the Executive wish to submit the following Remit for consideration by the Members at the NZCDG Inc. AGM to be held at Napier on 3 November 2023.

We wish to amend the following:

Paragraph No: 7.2

We wish the Remit to read:

7.2 Balance Date

The financial year of the Guild shall commence 1 December each year and end on 30 November in the following year, the latter date being the Guild's balance date.

Along with:

Annex A
Conference

The annual Conference shall be held over the weekend immediately following

- a. Any Friday in April
- b. Any Friday in May

Date to be determined after consideration of Conference venue availability, statutory holidays and international cake shows.

The date and place of each annual Conference shall, if possible, be decided at the Annual General Meeting two years in advance.

Our reasons for submitting the Remit are:

That altering of the Guild's AGM and Conference dates means the balance date needs to be altered so the AGM is no later than six months after the balance date as per our constitution.

Do I have a Secunder please? Jenny Thomas, Tauranga

We will now put the Remit to a vote that:

7.2 Balance Date

The financial year of the Guild shall commence 1 December each year and end on 30 November in the following year, the latter date being the Guild's balance date.

Along with:

Annex A
Conference

The annual Conference shall be held over the weekend immediately following

- c. Any Friday in April
- d. Any Friday in May

Date to be determined after consideration of Conference venue availability, statutory holidays and international cake shows.

The date and place of each annual Conference shall, if possible, be decided at the Annual General Meeting two years in advance.

All those in favour, please raise your green cards. Votes 25

All those to the contrary please raise your red cards. Votes 0

Any Abstentions. 0 Carried

Debbie Turner, Franklin – If you are going to say two years in advance that you are going to keep between school holidays and Easter. I have just gone onto Google calendar and Easter is not in there yet. Or the school holidays. So, if you're going to set that two years in advance, then the information may not be there.

Various muffled comments from the floor – The dates can be found on other sites.

President – So this brings us to the Amendment to the Remit. Helen Corder has alerted me to this. When we worked out the dates for the Financial Year we didn't count very well, so we need to change the Financial Year dates to commencing on the 1st January every year and ending on the 31st December of the same year.

We want an Amendment to the Remit, that the financial year of the Guild shall commence 1 January of each year and end on 31 December of the same year, the latter date being the Guild's balance date.

Could I have a Secunder please? Karen Gargiulo, Southland.

All those in favour please say aye. – many voices saying Aye.

Any against? Nil Any abstentions? Nil Carried.

So that brings us to:

Conference Venue 2025

Are there any branches wishing to host Conference in 2025.

Ideally from the North Island but at this point I will take whatever I can get.

If there is nobody that at this point is willing to put their hands up, and I do appreciate that we have made a decision to have it early 2025 some branches may need to have a think about that. So the decision will be at the discretion of the Executive, and I am hoping that someone will approach us and put their hand up. Come and see us and see what's involved.

Voting Papers

President - Now, we need to destroy the voting papers, may I have somebody move that all voting papers be destroyed by the scrutineers at the conclusion of the plaque selection following the AGM.

Mover – Carol Wadams, Franklin

Seconder – Mieka Conner, Taieri Plains

All those in favour say aye. – Aye Any against? Any abstentions? Carried.

Open Forum for discussion:

President – Just to clarify, any financial member of the NZCDG may speak at this time. It doesn't just have to be your delegate. New material is to be presented any time you speak.

Mary Humphreys, Petone – Last year at conference, it was mentioned about filling in a questionnaire / survey to help get some feedback from the members. That never came out did it?

President – Partly my fault. The old technology thing, I just need to get the technology sorted, and we do need to do that because it would be really good to get answers from individuals. So, if there is anybody out there with the technology skills to help us with that, that would be great. Part of it could be that we have free software, we haven't quite figured that one out yet. Yes, we will work really hard on doing that Mary, thank you.

Anybody else have any questions?

Judy Brunning, Horowhenua - We were just wondering why the date for submissions for the magazine has not been in the magazine lately?

President – I can't answer that, but we shall note it. I think it might have something to do with memories.

Shona Ross, Hillmorton – Just wondering if we would be given an extension of time for knowing what the flowers, etc will be. I know I am a year ahead now, for 2025, because you will only have a short time from conference 2024 to April / May 2025 to get that flower (competition pieces).

President – Very good point Shona. Very good point. We've got a little bit to work actually through.

Shona Ross, Hillmorton – Only because I find a year half the time is not enough.

President – And to be honest I didn't think anybody would put their hand up to have conference in 2025 so I wasn't, we weren't quite ready for that. Yes, thank you for bringing that up. It will be the whole competition schedule.

Anybody else got any more questions?

Linda Bunt, Nelson – We have at our Guild discussed holding conference again. We are not opposed to looking at it for 2025. We would like to take it back to the club to get total confirmation but at this point it would be a go for us.

President – Thank you Linda, that's awesome.

(Round of applause from audience.)

Any other questions?

Colleen Renner, Westland – Our guild would just like to know if the competition rules could be a little bit easier to understand for joining up for the competition sections, for when you move up. The two difference websites, the information seems to be a little bit different to each other. That's what we have found. It was a little bit confusing, that's all.

President – So, you mean between the Novice, Intermediate and Open?

Colleen Renner, Westland – Yes, when you move up and what's the stipulations are for those.

President – We'll have a look at that. I'll come and talk to you later Colleen and see where you are looking and see if we can clarify that. And get it corrected.

Kathie Rutherford, Gisborne – On that point, I would like to make the point as a Steward and as a competitor I have found that the schedule this year to be particularly difficult. Especially in one or two of the sections. Because the wording, I have brought this up many times before, but getting the wording correct, because for instance, one thing I noticed was the category was Spray, but it mentioned Posy and these are completely different things. So, the confusion is that there was more than one and I think this is where other people are coming from too. There was more than one version of that competition schedule that came out in different places, at different times.

President – How do you mean more than one version?

Kathie Rutherford, Gisborne – Well, one of them that I've read said something about, oh I can't remember now but I know I did make a note of it. But flowers, say for instance you're using the spray as the example, if you picked flowers out of the garden, every flower stem would have to perfect, whereas if you put a spray together you can just have one single bit of wire. Whereas for me, the way I interpreted that was that every flower that I put in that spray had to have a separate stem, like I'd picked it in the garden. But that's just an observation. So I think we need to look at this very carefully because it can be confusing. And it can put new people off the idea of entering because they are not quite sure what the guideline is.

President – Thank you Kathy. It is good to have feedback. Whether it be good, bad, or otherwise, otherwise nothing will change.

Beth Fuge, Wairarapa – We have a young girl that has just started with us, and I got in it too. But your spray when you're beginning and you've got to enter it. You are up against everybody, there is no sections, it's all Open. And it doesn't seem fair to the others because they think 'oh, I've got to go in with all those others, and I just want to try'. They are not going to want to try. So we have to do everything possible to get other ones to do it.

President – I understand that. It is quite tricky to keep adding more and more sections, we are often limited for space. We have to find more prizes, more trophies. And it is getting enough entries in each section as well. So, what about a bit of a deal. Have a year where we get lots and lots of sprays, so we look at say we have lots in there maybe we could have another section? But if we are only going to get half a dozen sprays there is really no point in having another section.

And just to clarify, it is not the Judges' who write the schedule or pick the sections. It is the national guild, i.e. the Executive. We do it, in conjunction with the Judges' and the host guild. But ultimately it is the Exec.

Mieka Conner, Taieri Plains – When you are talking about young people entering, one of the things that I think puts a lot of people off, is actually that we are doing still floral sprays and flowers. I know it is beautiful stuff

but it's a lot of things that a lot of younger people aren't actually doing as cake decorating. It would be really nice to see if there was a way that people could enter in their models, their figurines, that kind of thing. Cause that is really popular and it is something that a lot of people are doing, especially younger people. And if we want young people in our groups and entering competition work, we need to offer them something they actually want to enter. Because I wouldn't enter a flower in a hurry. I did the cake last year, the Anything Goes Cake because that was what interests me the most. And again, I was like that, up against everyone rather than, I was a first time enterer, and very novice. But a lot of people wouldn't do that, they'd just go 'oh, nah, I'm not going up against everyone else, I just won't'. So, I think that's something as a guild, as a group we have to address, we have to change. It falls back onto that same thing we talked about last year, about growing our groups and how we do that. Unless we make changes, we won't grow these groups.

President – The Wellington Regional Sugarcraft Competition that encompasses a lot of those sections, they have a lot of different things that you can do, they often have mini cakes, toppers, plaques, that kind of thing. We are quite restricted doing it at conference, we would have to look very carefully at it, we are on a big time restriction to get it judged and the prizes ready to go out. So, the more sections you have the longer it is going to take to judge, the more judges you need. Currently we do the prize giving on a Friday night, so think about if you want to add more sections, would you be happy having prize giving on say, Saturday. But bear in mind that all the judges pay the same registration fee as everybody else, so if you are asking them to judge more sections that might take Saturday morning, they are going to miss out on their conference. So, could be a bit of a trade off there. Lots of things to think about, but I do understand what you are saying and encouraging new people to come along.

I think this is really great, to have a good discussion with everybody because we do need to change things to gain new members, to keep our organization going.

Yvonne Mahy, Dunedin – If the trade off and the sprays aren't that popular at the moment could we not drop that and use our judges for models. Well, not for models, although that could be a great competition. Well, really we do need to make a change and last year we had the excuse that judging Friday's and all that carry on, so we need to drop something maybe and need to replace it with something more up to date.

President – Yip, quite possibly. I can see people nodding their heads, that something that is worth looking at. We do have trophies that are for specific things. Give us your ideas. We have set the schedule for Dunedin, but 2025. And especially considering that it is going to be so close, give us your ideas.

Mary Humphreys, Petone – Could we have maybe the guilds to sponsor that new section? It's all of us that want to see change, it should be the guilds that get behind it, so one or two guilds say yeah sure we'll sponsor that section and provide a trophy.

President – Yes. Guilds, branches are very good at coming forward and sponsoring prizes and new trophies and things. There have been branches over the last two or three years that have offered trophies but there just isn't a section for it or the time and space to add that in.

Secretary – Maybe we could go bi-annual with sprays one year and models the next year.

President – Mix it up a bit. Totally. I have no problem with that at all myself.

Do we have anyone else that would like to say anything, we are certainly not having a record AGM this year.

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere – The Australia ACADA competition I have attended a few times, they don't have novice, intermediate, etc to the best of my knowledge. They have junior category for young people and then they have, I don't know if they did this year, but they have in the past had a category for past winners to compete against each other. They are not actually competing like with like but it gives them a chance to rise above and quite often a new competitor will place, even when they are against the ones that have. It was just a thought; I am not suggesting we do that.

President – We do that in the flower competition, and we will clarify with Colleen about where the conflicting information that she has seen. And I can't recall off the top of my head what the rules actually are but it's so many, whether you have got a gold, or so many places that you must move up to the Intermediate section, and likewise then move to the Open section. But that doesn't mean to say that if you feel that your work is good enough, you are more than welcome to put it in one of the other two sections. And you may get a comment on your Judging Sheet 'please enter in the Intermediate, or the Open section next time' as they feel that your work is worthy of that. So, it is not necessarily that you have won so many times, or got so many golds.

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere – (muffled comments before microphone got there) ...anyone can enter, and then first-time entries, some have won but if they don't win they have got encouragement to enter again the following year and move up through the ranks. It is easier for the people who live in Australia and can just enter every year. It's all calm, everyone entered.

President – I still can't quite get that.

Tracey van Lent, Waitakere – You have newbies against experienced. Just then it's just, some of the newbie's work is better than the experience. It's a confidence thing.

Mieka Conner, Taieri Plains – I am a young person and want to see things changed and get a little bit excited. I was saying that a lot of people when they are new to it, they don't have the self-confidence to think that their work is as good, or better than people who have been doing it for ages. The only people who do are ones know their work is incredibly good, they may even be doing it semi-professionally or professionally. So then they have the confidence to do it, but the average hobbyist goes 'nah' I'd never go up against them, I'd never do it. It took a lot of confidence for me last year to do that, knowing my work wasn't going to be as good but it was about me challenging myself. And it was a lot of confidence to do it, I ummed and ahed and I kinda entered on a whim, then thought now I got to do it. So, that's the thing we want to make it easier to take that barrier down.

Shona Ross, Hillmorton – (without microphone, and hard to hear, but along the lines of is the flower competition for a single flower or can it be a stem i.e., gladioli, or hydrangea)

President – My interpretation of the flower competition and from researching from way back when, was that it was a single variety, not necessarily a single flower. Can you imagine, putting in, for example the Kowhai, one flower on it's own is not going to produce a very good public display, cause lets face it we want as much public through, one for the door fee, and to encourage new members. What I gathered from what I read back historically was it was a single variety, not a single flower.

Thank you all so much for your input, I think it is really really helpful. Thank you for sticking you hands up and discussing quite a lot.

I would like to thank the microphone operators and the scrutineers, most necessary for an AGM.

At the conclusion of this meeting, you need to go to the back of the room, just the delegates, take the pink voting slip to vote for the plaque. You get one vote per branch. And give your pink slip Frances or Sharlene.

If there is no further business, I now declare the 37th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated at 3.30pm.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held in Dunedin on Friday 1st November 2024.

Reminder: please return the voting cards to the pack and leave on the table for collection with the branch name holder on top.

I would like to thank you all for taking the time to join us today and we look forward to having a fabulous weekend.

Approval for distribution is given.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michele Barnett
President
New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc.

President's Report 2023

Hasn't this AGM come around quickly and aren't we all lucky to be in lovely Napier after everything that has happened here.

Your executive committee have managed to have one face to face meeting this year, we all traipsed off to Dunedin and checked out the venues. Unfortunately, we didn't quite all make it, Sandra had a wee accident and couldn't travel, thank goodness for Zoom. Sue, Sharlene and I did manage to get here to Napier as well, albeit a few months later than planned due to flooding and road closures. All other meetings have been via Zoom this year and we'll attempt to have at least one face to face next year.

The Wellington Regional Sugarcraft Competition wasn't held this year due to a venue upgrade. I must say I really missed my trip to Wellington and being able to do some hands on judging. It's always inspiring coming away from the Wellington comp, there's always fantastic entries and sadly my entries tend to stay in my head. Time is a bit of an issue for me and I take my hat off to those who do manage to enter, their entries make for a fabulous display which in turn helps to inspire people to join our organisation.

It is with deep sadness that we learned of the passing of Ann Elliot and Joyce Croucher earlier this year. Both were passionate, long standing guild members who made significant contributions to our organisation. They will be dearly missed.

Our membership stands at 437, which includes six life members and one international member. Waitakere is our largest branch with 35 members, followed by Tauranga with 32, and Nelson and Petone with 31. It's sad to see numbers declining and all branches need to make a concerted effort to attract new members. Growing our membership is vital for the survival of our organisation. Instead of debating a \$4 fee increase (which, in the grand scheme, is less than the cost of a coffee), let's channel our energy into promoting our craft and attracting new members. Remember, more members, more subs and fewer sub increases.

Thanks must go again to the Tauranga members who dropped by and helped to pack our magazines. It's certainly a good excuse to gossip and possibly a wine or two. Thank you to Christine Cecil for continuing her work as magazine editor.

We are still looking to increase our online presence and update our website but desperately need people with the skills to help. Heidi Dunning, Kelly Burdon and Christine Cecil do a great job and we thank them for doing this. Like myself they all have jobs and there is only so much time in a day so any extra help would be greatly appreciated.

To the executive committee, Frances Dalton-Hayward, Sharlene Fraser, Maria Moreno, Sandra McSherry, Sue White-Parsons and Jude Tosh, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work that you do and the support you give me. I'm more than sad that this has been Sharlene's last year but I do realise that committee members do need to change. It keeps things moving and keeps fresh ideas rolling in.

To finish off on behalf of the Executive Committee I would also like to thank all members for supporting us over the last year and giving us your continued support for the next. We look forward to some of you putting your hands up to help us with the jobs we're struggling to do ourselves.

Michele Barnett
President

Magazine Editors Report 2023

With the world seemingly to be getting back to normal but everyone still blaming Covid for one thing or the other it has been a funny old year. It has flown in some respects and dragged in others.

It does not seem long between getting one magazine printed and the next one started.

Thank you to all those members who keep sending in their branch reports and photos to accompany them. Thank you also to those members that send in their photos of their cakes and for the lovely supply of recipes. I do try to use as many as possible, but I also may hold some back for future publications.

Just a little reminder to type your report onto a document that is set to an A5 page and your font to an 11. It will then be easy for you to gauge how much room your report and photos are taking up. This however is currently for the printed version of the magazine. If, however we do go digital with the magazine then by all means full your boots. Please also remember the dates for getting things to me as any hold ups just mean that its late getting to the printer.

I would like to thank Michele Barnett for her continued support and Sandra McSherry who is my Magazine Liaison within the Exec. Our small band of Tauranga members who congregate at the drop of a hat to stuff magazines into envelopes so we can get them in the post the day after being printed, thank you ladies. This saves the Guild a huge amount of money. It is a huge fear of mine that I will drop one of the boxes at the Post Depot and must then get them all back into postcode order. I also, cannot speak more highly of Kale Print our publishers who are amazing to deal with. And lastly a huge thank you to the proof-readers. Sometimes I just cannot see the forest for the trees and need mistakes to be pointed out.

I would like to move that my report be accepted.

Christine Cecil

NZCDG Inc Editor 2023

Judges Co-Ordinator AGM Report 2023

My first year as Judges Co-Ordinator has been challenging. Despite a few setbacks we have put some projects in place for the coming year.

The Judges had planned to hold an Upskilling Weekend at the end of March 2023. Cyclone Gabriella had other ideas and created havoc with our plans. As this affected three of those Judges attending from the Napier and Hastings area as well as upsetting the travel plans of two other Judges travelling from Christchurch. As it was felt the three members had enough to cope with at that time and travel in and out of the area was majorly disrupted it was decided to cancel the upskilling.

We are looking into holding another Upskilling in 2024 if we can source a suitable venue and date.

The Judges July meeting usually held in Wellington while attending to judge the competition also did not occur due to the Wellington Competition has being cancelled. Many Judges and competitors are disappointed with the cancellation of the competition.

The Judges held a meeting by Zoom at the end of August 2023. As the number of Judges is dwindling due to some judges having retired, it was decided to hold a Judging School in April 2024 in Napier

The Judges are also reviewing the Guidelines for Judges Stewards and Competitors in Sugarcraft to contain more content and information for all members thinking of entering the competition. This is now available for all on the NZCDG Inc website along with the Competition Rules and Guidelines for Competitors.

The standard of work presented for judging today across all sections of the competition is once again amazing.

I would encourage all of you if you have never thought of entering to think about entering the competition. It as is a great way to extend the standard of your work. Although you need to adhere to the schedule, it also means you can try out new ideas and trends which will increase your skills in our craft.

The competition is a great way to showcase our creativity and encourage others to join our branches.

All the judges are always happy to assist with any queries and are willing to demonstrate if asked.

Have an enjoyable weekend, watching the demonstrations, making new or catching up with old friends and hopefully see you all in Dunedin 2024.

Marilyn Curnow
Judges Co-Ordinator