

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting**

of

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

Friday 1st November 2024

Held on Friday 1st November 2024 at Tuhura Otago Museum, Dunedin at 1.30pm

Welcome

President – Welcome everybody. On behalf of the Executive Committee, it is a privilege to welcome all delegates and observers to the 38th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated. Of our 30 branches we are represented here today by delegates from 21 branches, 1 represented by proxy, and 8 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. Can we just have branches please.

Secretary – We have received apologies from Marlborough, North Canterbury and North Shore

President – Are there any apologies from any other branches please? Gisborne. Any other apologies from branches? No. Thank you

May I have a mover that the apologies to accepted?

Lynn McAlonan, Tauranga / Leigh Sullivan, Taupo. 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, Joyce Raynel Taupo and Jenny Thomas Tauranga be accepted as scrutineers?

All those in favour please say aye.

Maureen McNamara, Redwood / Carol Wadams, Franklin / Carried

President – Thank you. Scrutineers can you please go with Frances, and she will give you 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 3rd of November 2023 be taken as read.

President - Can we have a seconder please?

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary / Susan McAlister, Napier. Carried

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

Secretary - I move that the Minutes of the meeting held on Friday the 3rd of November 2023 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary / Leigh Sullivan, Taupo/ Carried

President – There is a matter arising from the minutes. During the 2023 AGM, a question was raised regarding the continuation of workshops despite recorded losses. Unfortunately, due to human error, our response was based on an incomplete spreadsheet, which we addressed by emailing the branch member

who submitted the question. The branch has subsequently submitted a discussion point regarding this matter so we will discuss this at that point in the agenda.

Are there any more matters arising?

Carol Wadams, Franklin – A question I want to ask. On page 13 of the minutes, it says we voted to have a conference in April/ May 2025 or are we going to April/May 2026. I would like to know when it changed from having a conference to not having a conference?

President- I can't remember when we actually sent the messages to the branches, it was earlier on in the year. We had to make the decision not to have it in 2025, we didn't think about it enough when we mentioned it at the time. But what would have happened was that we wouldn't have got enough people to come to Dunedin and then not enough people to come to the next conference, so we made the decision to not have one in 2025, but to have a conference in 2026.

Carol Wadams, Franklin – So next AGM will be in 2026.

President – No the next AGM will be in May 2025 via zoom.

Any other matters arising from the minutes? No

Karen, would you present the correspondence, please?

Secretary –

Correspondence since November 2023

Inwards

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| President | Approved AGM Minutes 2023 |
| Nominations & Profiles | Executive 2024 Nominations & Profiles |
| Hillmorton | Discussion Point |
| Exec | Remit |
| NZCDG Inc. President | Annual Report |
| Magazine Editor | Annual Report |
| Judges Co-ordinator | Annual Report |
| Napier Cake Decorators Guild | Question regarding remit |

Outwards

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| President | AGM Minutes 2023 for approval |
| All Exec, Branch Secretaries | 2024 AGM Agenda, Executive Nominations, Treasurer's Report & Guidelines for Delegates, EOY Financial Accounts |
| Lone Members | 2024 AGM Agenda & EOY Financial Accounts |
| Napier Cake Decorators Guild | Response to remit question |

I move that the Outwards Correspondence be confirmed, and the Inwards Correspondence be received.
Karen Gargiulo, Secretary / Maureen McNamara. Redwood / Carried

Matters arising from the correspondence.

President - Are there any matters arising from the correspondence?

There are no matters arising from the correspondence.

Financial Report

President - The reviewed Financial Report for the year to the 30th of June 2024 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 2024 be adopted.

President - Branches wishing to ask questions at the AGM regarding the Financial Reports were requested to pre-advise these before the 15th of October 2024.

No questions have been received. Are there any 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 2025 be increased from \$50 to \$55 for general and lone members, and \$75 for overseas members.

Would any branch like to comment before we vote? No

We shall put it to a vote. 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.

All those in favour please raise your green cards. 17

All those against please raise your red card. 3 Any abstentions? Carried.

So, the fee for the year commencing 1 April 2025 will be increased from \$50 to \$55 for general and Lone Members, and \$75 for Overseas Members.

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

Presidents Report

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

Michele Barnett, President / Beth Renault, Wairarapa. 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. Those to the contrary please say no. 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 2025.

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

All those in favour please say yes Those to the contrary please say no. 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, Jude Tosh, Eastern Southland. As there are no other nominations, I declare that Jude Tosh elected Vice President of the NZCDG Inc for 2025.

There is one nomination for Secretary. Karen Gargiulo, Southland. As there are no other nominations, I declare that Karen Gargiulo elected Secretary of the NZCDG Inc for 2025.

There is one nomination for Treasurer, Maria Moreno, Eastern Southland. As there are no other nominations, I declare Maria Moreno elected Treasurer of the NZCDG Inc for 2025.

Committee

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

The nominations for Executive Committee are Sandra McSherry, Redwood and Bronwyn Bone, Central Otago

As there are no other nominations, I declare that Sandra McSherry and Bronwyn Bone are elected to the Committee positions for 2025.

As there are no other nominations for committee and there is one vacant position, please contact the executive committee after this meeting if you wish to be considered.

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

Magazine Editors' Report

President – I would like to call on your Magazine Editor Christine Cecil to present her Magazine Editor's report.

Christine Cecil – I move that the Magazine Editor's report for 2024 be accepted. *(Included at the end of these minutes)*.

Christine Cecil, Magazine Editor / Delise Mirchandani, Tauranga / Carried

President - Are there any questions for Christine? No? Thank you, Christine.

Judges Co-ordinator's Report

President – I would now like to call on the Judges Co-ordinator 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 2024 be accepted. *(Included at the end of these minutes)*

That was my report, but I have been asked to do an addendum by the Judges – having four of the ladies who attended the Judging School, who were Stewards now becoming Judges, we now need some Stewards. If you think you might like to be a Steward, come and have a talk to me or have a read on what is expected of a Steward in the green Judges and Guidelines. I'd love to see some of you and we are quite happy to come to your area and train you. Thank you very much.

Marilyn Teague-Curnow, Judges' Co-ordinator/ Jo Holdaway, Wellington / Carried

President – Your Judges Co-ordinator for 2025 is Marilyn Curnow. Are there any questions for Marilyn? No. Thank you Marilyn.

Remit

President - We, the members of the NZCDG Inc Executive Committee wish to submit the following remit for consideration by the delegates at the NZCDG Inc AGM on 1 November 2024.

We wish to amend the following and we wish the remits to read:

Paragraph No: 2.6

- a. Nomination for Life Membership shall be submitted in writing by any Branch of the Guild or the Executive Committee, to the Secretary by 31st October in any year. The Secretary shall acknowledge receipt to the nominator.
- b. Voting is by postal ballot. The Secretary shall circulate the nomination and a ballot form to every Branch by 1st December. Signed ballot forms must be received by the Secretary by 31st January. Emailed ballot forms will be accepted only if they are a scanned copy of the completed and signed ballot form.

Paragraph No: 3.15

Any Branch may request that a Motion be moved on at a General Meeting, by giving Notice to the Secretary eight weeks prior to the AGM date for that year. The Branch may also provide information in support of the Motion. Such Motion and information shall be notified with the Notice of the General Meeting

Paragraph No: 3.16

Any Branch or the Executive Committee may, by giving Notice in writing to the Secretary eight weeks prior to the AGM date for that year, put forward an item to be discussed in General Business including written information in support. Such item and any supporting information shall be notified with the Notice of the General Meeting.

This does not preclude and Branch, or the Executive Committee, from putting forward items of General Business during the General Meeting

The remit had been distributed to all branches. Since distribution we wish to make an amendment to the wording of Paragraph 4.4 and Paragraph 11.2 to now read

Paragraph No: 4.4

a. A nominee's written nomination, accompanied by the documentation as in 4.3, shall be received by the Secretary eight weeks prior to the AGM date for that year. *If there are insufficient valid nominations received, expressions of interest in the vacant positions will be called for and filled by resolution on the incoming Executive Committee*

Paragraph No: 11.2

Any proposed Motion to amend or replace this Constitution and rationale for the proposal must be from a Branch or the Executive Committee and be given in writing to the Secretary eight weeks prior to the AGM date for that year. *At least six weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting at which the motion is to be considered, the Secretary shall circulate to all Branches the proposed Motion, rationale and any recommendation the Executive Committee has.*

Note: We omitted the balance of these two paragraphs in the circulated remit form and as the intention is to make no change to these portions, we have now included it to complete the paragraphs.

Karen can you please read the rationale.

Secretary – Our reasons for submitting the Remit are to bring our Constitution in line with the altered balance and conference dates.

President - We will now put the remit to a vote that the dates in paragraphs 2.6a and 2.6b, 3.15, 3.16, 4.4a and 11.2 are amended as distributed and read to bring our Constitution in line with the altered balance and conference dates.

All those in favour please raise your green 'yes' card.

Could I please call upon our scrutineers to come forward and count the votes.

All those to the contrary please raise your red 'no' card.

Any abstentions Carried

Secretary – I can confirm that the dates in paragraphs 2.6a and 2.6b, 3.15, 3.16, 4.4a and 11.2 are updated as distributed and amended to bring our Constitution in line with the altered balance and conference dates.

Discussion Point

President - We have received a discussion point from Hillmorton Cake Decorators Guild. Can I ask a representative to read out their discussion point before we open the discussion.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton - The members of Hillmorton Cake Decorators Guild would like to submit the following discussion point for inclusion in the NZCDG Inc AGM to be held on Friday the 1st of November 2024, in Dunedin.

Discussion Point: That going forward the NZCDG Inc Executive will distribute to all branches, copies of the reviewed and signed financial reports, and any calculations regarding answers to branch questions are available at the AGM. This is to ensure both the members, and the Executive, have clarity around matters arising during discussions of the Financial Report, and comprehensive answers can in fact be provided.

Our reasoning: Branches are asked to submit any questions pertaining to the Financial Report to the NZCDG Inc Treasurer prior to the AGM so 'comprehensive' answers can be given. In 2023 our branch did this and we agreed to have one of our delegates read out these questions at the AGM.

Our question, "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?", was met with the response;

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. (NZCDG Inc, AGM minutes Friday 3rd November 2023).

Due to confusion around whether we were using the 'correct' figures to deem the workshops had made a loss, there could be no further discussion on this matter. The NZCDG Inc Treasurer agreed to send us the breakdown showing the profit for Conference. These figures were not available at the AGM.

Post conference research by ourselves still indicated that the workshop had in fact been run at a loss as there was no expenses or receipts in the previous year's financial report that related to the 2023 Workshop as was suggested during the AGM. After again writing to the NZCDG Inc Treasurer providing figures showing the loss of \$169.95, we received the following response;

I do apologise, the figures I mentioned (revenue of \$170) at the AGM were incorrect, the figures quoted had come from an incomplete spreadsheet. This error will be added on the next AGM's Matter to Discuss.

The actual loss incurred from the Post Conference Workshop was \$169.95 as shown in the EOY accounts. (email from NZCDC Inc Treasurer, 30 November 2023)

If the branches have signed copies of the reports, it would prevent issues like those experienced in 2023 from recurring. If all branches have the same information this will ensure that robust, informed and timely discussions can be held, and that concerns are not summarily dismissed and swept under the "Matters Arising" carpet of the following AGM.

I would like to add that when we submitted this we were approached and asked to withdraw it otherwise the Treasurer would resign. We wanted it to stay in place, so we did amend it which has not been forwarded. Our intention is not to question the integrity of the committee or office holders but to provide a possible solution to avoid the issues that arose at the last AGM.

President – Thank you Penny.

Treasurer – The End of Year (EOF) statements are sent to branches along with the signed Independent Review Report from our authorised reviewer. Relevant information is brought to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) based on the questions submitted.

During the 2023 AGM, a question was raised regarding the continuation of workshops despite reported losses. In our view, this question did not necessitate detailed computations. Unfortunately, due to human error, our response was based on an incomplete spreadsheet, which we addressed by emailing the Branch member who submitted the question.

I would like to clarify that during the conference weekend, when I was approached about this query, I do not recall agreeing to provide a breakdown of the loss. Instead, I committed to re-checking the files for clarity and promised to follow up via email.

Upon realising the error, I sent an email to the Branch representative on November 30, 2023, which included the 2023 EOY Statement, with all pages duly signed by our reviewer, as requested, along with the Alexandra Conference Financial Report for 2023. I also noted that this issue would be addressed in the Matters Arising section of the next AGM, as it is crucial that corrections are properly recorded in the presence of all branches or their representatives.

I want to emphasize that there is no intention to dismiss the issue, as suggested by this branch. Adhering to proper protocol is essential since we are an incorporated society.

We did not receive a response to our email, leading us to believe that the branch was satisfied with our report until the recent Discussion Point submitted in September.

I also want to reiterate that all branches were provided with the correct and signed/reviewed financials, ensuring there were no discrepancies in the figures reported. The misunderstanding stemmed solely from the statements made during the AGM.

President – Are there any branches who wish to speak for or against this discussion?

Penny Trim, Hillmorton - I just want to clarify we submitted our question regarding the workshops in the August, it wasn't from the floor. So, there should have been time to get that. We appreciate mistakes happen, we don't understand why an email couldn't have been sent out saying we made a mistake, instead of waiting for a year. But we do acknowledge that this year we did get the signed financials, so if a question had been raised, we could have said 'but these are the figures we have.' So, I just wanted to clarify that. Our financials were not signed last year. These ones are, last year's weren't.

President – Yes Penny I do think everyone was emailed with the correct information.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton - I was the secretary in 2023, we were sent the figures which were identical. We've got no qualms whatsoever with the way the financials were done, but the financial report that we received with the signed reviewer, the financial report was not signed, and he didn't acknowledge what date the figures were, which is why we couldn't argue that the figures we were basing our information on was correct. And that's why we were asking for signed ones because the ones we got last year weren't. They definitely are this year.

President – Now hang on, which bits aren't signed Penny, I'm a little bit confused.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – If you look at the financial reports, if somebody has got some, the financial reports for this year. You will note on the ones sent out, we have the stamp and signature on the pages by the reviewer. That's what we are asking for, so that we can say these are the accounts. Last year we did not get these, they were unsigned. So, we were told we were potentially using wrong figures, so that's our issue. This solves it. It's been done properly this year.

President – So it's no longer an issue?

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – What we are saying is, this is answering what we asked for. Because last year we were told we were using wrong figures, and we couldn't prove that they were the correct ones.

President – Last year we made an error with the spreadsheet. All we do is take the figures from the accounting package and put it together in a spreadsheet to make it easy for branches to see where we stand with conferences and workshops. It is done manually but it is taken from those figures.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – I totally appreciate that.

President – And we just picked up an earlier, in fact it was my fault, I did it, I picked up an earlier spreadsheet, I didn't check it because for \$169.00 I'm sorry it is not worth our time to spend hours investigating it.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – All I was meaning was the reason we put the discussion point in is if we had of received the financial report last year like we have this year we could have said that we are working from correct figures. We were told we must have had the wrong ones, and we couldn't say but these were the reviewed figures. That's why we have asked to get them in future and that's what's happened this year. That's all we've asked for. We know that it was a human error, a mistake happened, we have no problem, but it was the fact that we had given so much notice and then we were told we are using the wrong figures, and we couldn't discuss it further because we couldn't say we've got the reviewed ones.

President – We didn't say anything about the end of year accounts being incorrect figures, they will always be correct. They have been reviewed and we get them back in whatever form the reviewer decides to give them to us. But we have asked for that to happen, and we will continue to ask for that but that really is up to each exec and each reviewer as to how they wish to deal with it.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – We just wanted it to be open that we could then be able to say that these are the financials. We've never said that there was a problem with the figures.

President - No, but there was a problem with the figures with the spreadsheet and yes, you picked it up from that and we corrected it.

Penny Trim, Hillmorton – That's right. I just want to clarify that this year the matter wouldn't have arisen cause we would have said these are the figures.

President – And often those spreadsheets with the workshop and the conference figures, they may not be correct, with executive committee members changing, it takes a while to get used to the job. It's all to do with where the figures are coded. So, we might be checking things, looking at things, and we might say to the treasurer, I think you've got that figure in the wrong code, that belongs to workshops, and you've got it in conference or in actual fact that's a general expense. So, depending on when that spreadsheet is put out, may make a difference because we may pick things up as we go along. If it's a huge discrepancy we would probably send an email to all the branch secretaries and say look, we've made an error, but if it's a couple hundred bucks it's really not worth it.

Judith Crosland, Central Otago – As a past Treasurer, we were working on Conferences sometimes 3 years in advance and it's quite hard to put all those figures forward correctly each year.

President – Thank you Judith.

Debbie Turner, Franklin - I second what Judith said.

President – Thank you Debbie. To double check it yourselves. As Penny has said, if it comes from the end of year accounts, they are correct. Although at times the figures may actually be correct and everything will balance but you might change where it is coded to, if you happen to notice that it has been coded to the wrong place.

Debbie Turner, Franklin - I was going to say exactly the same, depends on where it's been coded to and when you change or go to a new accountant, they will code things slightly different or put it in a different bucket to what you normally or what the previous accountant would have had. So it is as Judith has said, very difficult when you've got a changeover of Treasurer from doing it and then a change of accountant from where they put it from one place to another. Well done for what you've done.

President – Thank you Debbie, we appreciate that.

Maureen McMamara, Redwood – We would like to thank the Treasurer for all the work she has done, and we would like to thank Michele for helping her. It is a tireless job trying to get all these figures right.

Lynn McAlonan, Tauranga – Tauranga would like to say that we are very happy with the processing with the figures and we like them to continue as they are and thank you for your work.

President – Thank you. Is there any branch here today that would like us to present that information any differently to what has been presented for this AGM.

General Business:

Conference 2026

President – As you are aware there is no conference in 2025. At this point in time there is no confirmed venue for 2026. We are currently working on this and will advise branches as soon as we have confirmation. The competition schedule, demonstrators and plaque title will be announced at the 2025 AGM. It will still give you exactly the same amount of time as any other year.

Are there any branches who wish to come forward to host conference in 2027? And ideally it should be in the South Island

Linda Bunt from Nelson raised her hand.

President – Nelson. So, I can announce that unless there is anybody else who is going to put their hand up? Conference 2027 will be in Nelson.

Voting Papers

President - Now before we have an open forum, just a little bit of general housekeeping. May I have somebody to move that all voting papers be destroyed by the scrutineers at the conclusion of the plaque selection following the AGM.

Margo Short, Highland / Lois Muir, Central Otago Carried.

Glen Nicholson, Whangarei – I just have a statement from the Whangarei club just as to why we were unable to continue looking at conference for 2026.

The Whangarei club was asked, under pressure, to host the 2026 conference. After much thought and discussion, we have made the decision that we are not able to host the conference in 2026. This decision was sent to the National Executive on 4th September this year.

1. We are a very small club with approximately 8 active members – we do have some members that we very seldom see and would not be available. We are geographically very spread out.
2. Several members spoke of the work for conference in 2014, and at that time we were joined by Northern Wairoa – who no longer exist. They know it is a mammoth undertaking.
3. Because we hosted a conference 10 years ago it was felt that it was far too soon to revisit. Perhaps it is time to go to a branch who has never been a host. Whangārei can't be the only place in NZ who may have a cheaper hire rate for a venue. It is not cheap to fly into Whangarei.
4. Although Waitakere had offered to help, this would principally be only for the days of conference and none of the pre-conference work.
5. We realise that it was mentioned in the last magazine, but we felt we were still at the feasibility stage, and this has made us both annoyed and uncomfortable. This put under even more pressure.
6. The National Executive joined us for a demonstration day, on 7th September, and continued to urge us to host conference, they proposed having a national conference committee to organise it remotely. We asked that they send us a proposal that we could discuss and see where our club might fit into this plan. To date this has not been forthcoming.
7. Conference can be organised remotely, at a national level; this would be a shift in thinking and branches should not think the 'worst' of clubs that cannot overcommit.

President – Thank you Glen. I do apologise if Whangarei did feel pressurised, it wasn't our intention. We do have some ideas and we will talk to you over conference, but we are not going to announce where conference is going to be in 2026 at this minute. But when we do have something confirmed we will announce it.

Open Forum for Discussion

President - Any Financial member of the NZCDG Inc may speak at this time. So you don't have to be a delegate, anybody here as an observer may speak if they wish. So is there anybody here that would like to bring up any other matter.

Anne Williams, Canterbury – I would just like to ask you, passed changes to Constitution here now at the AGM, so I just wanted confirmation that those changes will be reported to the Incorporated Societies Act, so that the constitution is updated within the Incorporated Societies.

President – Oh, absolutely. There are very strict rules around that Anne. And yes, we do comply with that. Yes, definitely. So, the previous changes from last year have been filed already.
Any other questions?

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – We are very, very concerned about the magazine in case it goes bottom up. We are not computer people. So we would like to get it and read it like a lot of you other people. Our suggestion is to try and keep some of the costs down is, instead of sending it to every individual person, send it to one person of the club. President, Secretary, whoever. Would that be a help?

President – We would need to check out the costing of it. Often when you get something printed, the less you get printed, the more it's going to cost.

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – No, no, what I mean Michele is for instance, say the Wairarapa is sent 12 books, send all the books to one person.

President – Ok, I'm with you.

Beth Renault, Wairarapa - So it's going to save 11 postages.

President – We have had the odd discussion about that. We would need to check out courier charges as a the end of the day, it may just cost the same. We are always discussing and thinking about ways of doing that.

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – Now a suggestion about each club. That we all put in a page each.

Inaudible from the floor

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – Sponsor a page.

President – Like the sponsors we've got, but all clubs doing it. We are getting a few more all the time, but yes, that would be nice. Because it's not a huge sum.

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – Could we really stress that, that all clubs help out. It's not that much money.

President – And actually, I was having a discussion with Robert Harwood who is your Australian demonstrator, who belongs to the Western Australia club. Western Australia now no longer belongs to the other organisation and I'm sorry I can't quite think of what they call themselves. Because it got to a point where they no longer got a magazine, and they weren't getting anything for their subscription. Your subscription isn't just a magazine. I'm not sure what their Incorporated Society rules are, but ours here in New Zealand, to be able to have any kind of club, you need to be an Incorporated Society, you need to have a constitution and you need all that kind of stuff to be able to have a bank account operating like most of our bank accounts do, with two signatories and all the rest of it. Public Liability Insurance, it costs to register a society. So in our case here, that's were some of your subs go to, it's not just the magazine. But just having that conversation with him, and it was only this morning. It made me think we do need to do as much as we can to keep the magazine going and I personally, I'm IT literate, but I'd personally prefer my magazine (holds up magazine and shakes it). So I get it, but I also get those that prefer to see it online. So it's a bit of a tricky one but we are trying to keep it as it is.

Debbie Turner, Franklin – What if we had 3 per year instead of 4?

President – That is an option too, but again, we are losing members. It's all very well saving money, but we seem to be getting less and less and less with what we are doing, we are not going to gain anymore membership. So, it's a bit of a catch twenty-two, but they are all things to think about. And our magazine is used a lot to advise all members of what's happening and what's going on. Because not everyone reads the website, can't always get stuff on the website.

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – You can keep going back to your magazine, all the time. Not just this year, you can go back 10 years ago.

President – And when I'm writing stuff for the guild, I go and get my paper copy of the magazine and read it, instead of finding it online.

Beth Renault, Wairarapa – Thank you.

President – Thank you Beth.

Would anybody else have anything they would like to discuss? No. Thank you for your input, those of you who have put points forward.

Thank you to our scrutineers and microphone operators.

At the conclusion of this meeting, would delegates please proceed to the back of the room for the plaque selection, taking the green voting slip for the Branch Plaque Selection from your pack with you. Please allow any delegates that are Judges to make their selection first to enable them to return to judging. Delegates may have two circuits if required to view the plaques before you make your selection and remember only one vote per branch.

If there is no further business, I now declare the 38th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated closed at 2.43pm.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday 17th May 2025 at 1.30pm

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.



Michele Barnett
President
New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc.

President's Report 2024

Oh, my goodness what a year it has been, some branches have celebrated milestone anniversaries and we have lost a few valuable and loved members. Taieri Plains, Waitakere, and Tauranga have all reached 30 years, Canterbury turned 40.

We lost Christine Willoughby suddenly early this year. This saddened not only the members of the Tauranga branch, but the wider cake decorating community. It was on Christine's bucket list to demonstrate at conference, she was thrilled with an invitation for this conference and was going to demonstrate a Tulip from her treasured garden.

I also note the sad passing of Barbara Sparks who was a longstanding member of Hillmorton and Colleen Holdt, a much-loved member of New Plymouth branch. Margaret Bigwood passed late last year, she served on the executive committee, became national president in 1993 and was a founding member of the Napier branch. These ladies will be sorely missed.

In Branch news, Horowhenua attended the local A & P Show not only selling iced cookies and floral sprays but also demonstrating our craft to the public to attract new members.

Eastern Southland hosted their annual Pukerau Sugar Art Retreat, I believe this is always a fun filled weekend and one day I will attend myself.

Nelson have been busy running workshops that always look interesting, encouraging members of the public including children to come and have a go.

Whangarei are doing great things with their children's workshop, Wairarapa, Tauranga and Whangarei successfully ran their annual demonstration day.

The Wellington competition theme was Christmas this year, and was hosted at a new venue. I was fortunate enough to judge the junior section. It was fabulous to see once again, the wonderful job of teaching Hilliary Marshall from Palmerston North does, it really shows in the standard of their workmanship and creativity. Look out for flyers for the theme of next year's competition.

Our membership stands at 428, plus six life members. while this is down on last year it's great to hear our branches working to attract new members.

I would like to extend a big thank you to the office bearers at our clubs and guilds, the magazine editor, webmaster, Judges Co-ordinator and Executive Committee, and to all of you who support these volunteers. Our organization depends on volunteers like yourselves to exist.

Thank you.

Michele Barnett
President

Magazine Editors Report 2024

Good afternoon.

I wish to submit the following Editors report for the year 2024.

I would like to first give a huge thank you to those members that continue to supply the magazine with their photos, branch reports, recipes, and demo notes.

Without these contributions my job as Editor would become more time consuming and challenging to fill the 42 pages of your quarterly magazine.

I would like to thank Michele Barnett for her continued support and expertise in finding her way around the Publisher apt, for changing PDFs into an acceptable program to work with and for her tweaking of the magazine once I have it up to a certain stage. Thanks to Sue White-Parsons who has been my Magazine Liaison within the Exec. Thank you to 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. This ongoing support saves the Guild a huge amount of money.

I cannot speak more highly of Kale Print our publishers who are amazing to deal with. I would highly recommend them to any of our members throughout New Zealand looking for any type of printing needed. Lastly a huge thank you to the proof-readers. These ladies are not given much time to proof before its needed to be sent to the publisher, so I do appreciate your time and prompt response in doing this.

Please keep those contributions coming in. You may not feel your work is good enough for inclusion but remember the photos are small and there is no Judging taking place. Just remember to try and take a photo with a blank wall or drop behind. If possible, type your recipes, notes, and branch reports on A5 in a font 11 to gauge how much magazine space you will be using. It would be much appreciated as it cuts my hours considerably when organizing the layout.

I was hoping that my term as Editor would cease at this AGM, but I have been asked to continue to the next AGM in mid-2025. If acceptable to the members, I have agreed to do this as it is going to be a bit of a transitional period for everyone concerned.

I would like to move that my report be accepted.

Christine Cecil

Editor of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Magazine.

Judges Co-Ordinator AGM Report 2024

This year as Judges Co-Ordinator has seen the Judges and Stewards meet in Wellington and Dunedin to steward and judge. The standard of the Wellington competition pieces was excellent, especially the section supported by the school children. It would be great if more of you would also enter and support any future competitions.

The Judges and Stewards July meeting was held in Wellington while attending to judge and steward the competition.

A Judges School was held in April 2024 in Napier with five ladies passing their theory part of the Judging school. Four of these ladies completed the practical part of their course at the Wellington Competition held in July and will be judging this weekend. The other lady was unable to attend due to work commitment, so will complete her practical part at a later date.

The Judges are still reviewing the Guidelines for Judges Stewards and Competitors in Sugar craft. This is now available for all on the NZCDG Inc website along with the Competition Rules and Guidelines for Competitors.

I would like to encourage all of you if you have never thought of entering to think about entering the competition. It is a great way to extend the standard of your work. Just read and understand 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 highlight our skill and creativity and encourage others to join our branches. If each branch or guild would take the time to encourage and gain at least two or three new members over the coming year, it would keep our craft in sugar and cold porcelain alive and thriving.

All the judges are always happy to assist with any queries about competitions and are willing to demonstrate if asked by any branch or guild.

Have an enjoyable weekend, watching the demonstrations, making new or catching up with old friends and hopefully see you all in 2026.

Marilyn Curnow
Judges Co-Ordinator

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Judges Co-Ordinator