

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting**

of

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

Saturday 17th May 2025

Held on Saturday 17th May 2025 via Zoom and the residence of Jude Tosh, Edendale at 1.30pm

Michele Barnett, President: Welcome everybody, thank you for taking the time to attend our Zoom AGM meeting. So, I have muted everybody and when it is your turn to speak, you will need to unmute yourself and then put it back on mute when you are finished. Now like we would normally do in a meeting, if you wish to speak, you will need to raise your hand, but you will need to raise your hand on your screen. So, we are going to have a wee practice at that. If you look at the bottom of your screen you will either see reactions or raise hand. If you just click on raise hand, you will see all the hands pop up on the screen. So, when we have finished, sometimes we will have to count them, although it does come up on my screen the number, so lower hand and your hand will go down. Could I please request that sound to all mobile phones be turned off.

As Zoom is very sensitive all delegates will be muted until it is your turn to speak and observers will be muted until the Open Forum for Discussion section.

As we would normally do when delegates wish to speak, please raise your hand by clicking the 'raise' your hand at the bottom of your screen', it may come under 'reactions', and I will unmute you, please give your name and branch before continuing to speak. When finished speaking please 'lower' your hand. We will now have a practice.

When you are required to vote a box will appear on your screen with a question and the appropriate options. Please click on the box of your choice then submit. Remember only one delegate per branch may vote please. We will have a practice run now before we continue.

Welcome

Michele Barnett, President: On behalf of the Executive Committee, it is a privilege to welcome all delegates and observers to the 39th 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. We also have 1 lone member.

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

Michele Barnett, President: I now call for apologies.

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary: Whanganui Sugarcraft, North Canterbury Cake Decorators Guild, New Plymouth

Are there any other apologies?

Michele Barnett, President: Are there any other apologies from any other branches? Please raise your hand if there is.

May I have a mover that the apologies be accepted, please 'raise' your hand.

All those in favour please say aye by raising your hands, those to the contrary please raise your hands.

Any abstentions raise your hand.

Julie Eade, Redwood /Christine Cecil, Tauranga. Carried

Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

Michele Barnett, President: The Minutes of the previous AGM have been distributed to all branches.

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary: I move that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated held on 1 November 2024 be taken as read.

Michele Barnett, President: Can we have a seconder please.

All those in favour please say aye by raising their hands, please lower your hands, any to the contrary.
Please lower your hands. Any abstentions.

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary / Gillian Belton, Westland. Carried

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary: I move that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 1 November 2024 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

Michele Barnett, President: Can we have a seconder please.

All those in favour please say aye by raising their hands, thank you, you may lower your hands. Those to the contrary please raise your hands. Any abstentions raise your hand.

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary / Jane Sparnon, Waitakere. Carried

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Michele Barnett, President: The minutes are adopted as true and correct.

Are there any matters arising from the minutes? Please raise your hand if there is.

No matters arising from the minutes

Correspondence

Michele Barnett, President: Karen, would you please present the correspondence

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary: Correspondence since November 2024

Inwards

President

Approved AGM Minutes 2024

Nominations and Profiles

Executive 2025 Nominations & Profiles

NZCDG Inc. President

Annual Report

Magazine Editor

Annual Report

Judges Co-ordinator

Annual Report

Outwards

President

AGM Minutes 2024 for approval

All Exec, Branch Secretaries

2025 AGM Agenda, Executive Nominations,
& Treasurers Report & Guidelines for Delegates, EOY
Financial Accounts

Lone Members

AGM Agenda & EOY Financial Accounts

I move that the Outwards Correspondence be confirmed, and the Inwards Correspondence be received

Michele Barnett, President: Can we have a seconder please. Please raise your hand.

All those in favour please say aye. Any to the contrary? Any abstentions?

Karen Gargiulo, Secretary / Gillian Belton, Westland. Carried

Matters Arising from Correspondence

Michele Barnett, President: Are there any matters arising from the correspondence? Please raise your hand

No. There are no matters arising from the correspondence

Financial Report

Michele Barnett, President: The reviewed Financial Report for the year to 31 December 2024 has been distributed to all branches.

Treasurer: I move that the Financial Report of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated for the six months to 31 December 2024 be adopted. May I have a seconder please

Michele Barnett, President: All those in favour please say aye by raising their hands. Any abstentions?

Maria Moreno, Treasurer / Julie Eade, Redwood. Carried

Branches wishing to ask questions at the AGM regarding the Financial Report were requested to pre-advise these by 27 April 2025. No questions have been received. But are there any questions you would like to ask? Please raise your hand.

No questions.

Are there any other matters arising from the Financial Report?

Michele Barnett, President: The Exec Committee has recommended to all branches that Subscriptions for the year commencing from 1 April 2026 stay at \$55 for general and lone members, and \$75 for overseas members.

Would any branch like to comment before we vote? Please raise your hand if there is anything you would like to say.

We shall now put it to a vote.

All those in favour please raise your hands. Please lower your hands. Any to the contrary please raise your hands. Any abstentions? Carried

President's Report

Michele Barnett, President: Michele Barnett read her President's report.

It is both an honour and a bittersweet moment for me to present my final President's Report for 2025. Serving as your President over the past four and a half years has been an absolute privilege, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and support you have shown me during this time.

I won't pretend it's all been easy—far from it. We've weathered some incredibly challenging times together. From navigating the uncertainty of COVID-19 to the heartbreaking loss of two of our demonstrators and, on a personal note, the passing of my stepdaughter—these moments have tested us all. Yet through it all, I've remained standing, thanks in no small part to the extraordinary people who make up your National Executive. Their unwavering support, compassion, and shared laughter have been a source of strength and joy I will always cherish.

To our wider membership: thank you. The encouragement and kindness I've received from so many of you has meant the world to me.

A special thank you to Jude for stepping into the role of President. I know you'll be supported by the same dedicated and passionate Executive team I've been fortunate to work alongside. They are a remarkable group of individuals who care deeply about the future of this organisation.

It is a little disappointing to report that our membership has declined this year to 381, including six life members. I urge each of you to do what you can to help grow those numbers. Our organisation depends on it.

I was tempted to go on a bit of a rant about the importance of the national fee after hearing a few members express reluctance to pay it—but I'll save that for the magazine instead. I'll simply say this: without the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc.—a fully registered incorporated society with nonprofit and tax-exempt status—your local branches wouldn't have the infrastructure to function. There'd be no club bank accounts with multiple signatories, no shared public liability insurance, and no access to the incredible talent pool of demonstrators. I encourage everyone to take a moment to read the Incorporated Societies Act—it offers great insight into why the Guild exists and why its role is vital.

On a brighter note, I want to celebrate the fantastic work being done by several of our branches to attract new members. Whangarei and Nelson, in particular, are doing wonderful work with children in their communities—planting seeds for the next generation of cake decorators. Many other branches continue to run workshops and demonstration days, opening their doors to the public. Please keep going—every effort helps grow and strengthen our Guild.

A couple of recent events deserve a special mention: Tauranga's demonstration day was held just a few weeks ago, and I was honoured to be invited to demonstrate alongside Kathie Rutherford from Gisborne, and our own Helen Corder and Colleen Fellingham. It was a truly enjoyable and inspiring day. Meanwhile,

Eastern Southland hosted their Pukerau Retreat, which I hear was also a resounding success. Watch out—I plan to join you next year!

To the Executive Committee, Editor, IT helper, Judges, Stewards and all the other volunteers who help out: thank you from the bottom of my heart for your dedication and hard work. You are the backbone of this organisation. And to all our members—please remember, we are all volunteers doing our very best. So before firing off that critical or demanding email, take a moment to consider—does it really matter? And is there a kinder way to say it?

With sincere gratitude and warmest wishes for the future,

Michele Barnett

President, NZ Cake Decorators Guild Inc.

I move that my 2025 President's Report be adopted. May I have a Seconder

Julie Eade – Redwood

All those in favour please raise your hands. Please lower your hands. Those to the contrary please raise your hands. Please lower your hands. Any abstentions?

Michele Barnett, President / Julie Eade, Redwood. Carried

Election of Officers

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

Michele Barnett, President: I now declare the position of President to be vacant. There is one nomination for the position of President, Jude Tosh, Eastern Southland. As there are no other nominations, I declare Jude Tosh elected President of the NZCDG Inc for the 2025/26 year.

I now declare the position of Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer to be vacant.

There is one nomination for Vice President, Sandra McSherry, Redwood. As there are no other nominations, I declare Sandra McSherry elected Vice President of the NZCDG Inc for 2025/26.

There is one nomination for Secretary, Karen Gargiulo, Southland. As there are no other nominations, I declare Karen Gargiulo elected Secretary of the NZCDG Inc for 2025/26.

There are no nominations for Treasurer. We have had one expression of interest. Is there any other expressions of interest from the floor? If so, please raise your hand. As there are no other expressions of interest, I declare Delwyn Burrow, South Otago as Treasurer of the NZCDG Inc for 2025/26.

I now declare the three Executive Committee positions to be vacant.

The nominations for Executive Committee are Bronwyn Bone, Central Otago. As there are no other nominations, I declare that Bronwyn Bone is elected to the Committee positions for 2025/26.

We have had two expressions of interest. Are there any other expressions of interest from the floor? Please raise your hand now. As there are no other expressions of interest I declare Michelle Dawson, Marlborough and Gillian Belton, Westland as Committee of the NZCDG Inc for 2025/26

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

Magazine Editor's Report

Michele Barnett, President: I'd now like to call on your Magazine Editor Christine Cecil, to present her Magazine Editors Report

Christine Cecil: Good afternoon to our Executive and to all members who have joined this zoom meeting.

My last report I had stated was going to be my last report as Editor but that didn't pan out so this year's report actually is going to be my last.

I am confident that the role has been filled so I will look forward to receiving my future copies from her hands. The role has had its moments good and bad but the good have definitely outweighed the negative times. Much of these were probably due to my own lack of skills in the publisher department.

I would like to thank Michele Barnett for all the help she has given me and also to the magazine Liaisons over my time as Editor. I know we all try our best and life does just happen at times which is totally out of our control.

I do ask the branches to regularly send in your branch reports, photos, demonstration notes, recipes, everyday member items and anything relevant to our magazine. Please remember it is our magazine. Yours and mine, so need's input from everyone.

My best wishes to our new editor.

Christine Cecil

Editor of the NZCDG Inc.

I move that the Magazine Editors report for 2025 be accepted.

Seconder Lana Thomas - Hillmorton

Michele Barnett, President: All those in favour please say aye by raising their hands. Please lower your hands. Those to the contrary please raise your hand. Please lower your hands. Any abstentions raise your hand.

Christine Cecil, Editor / Lana Thomas, Hillmorton. Carried

Michele Barnett, President: - Are there any questions for Christine? No
Our new Magazine Editor will be Michelle Dawson from Marlborough

This brings us to our Judges Co-Ordinator's report. I'd now like to ask Marilyn Curnow to present the Judges Co-Ordinator's report.

Judges Co-Ordinator's Report

Marilyn Curnow: The NZCDG Inc Judges and Stewards have taken a sabbatical since attending conference in Dunedin 2024, as no dates had been given or confirmed until the Executive notified the dates of the AGM meeting May 17th May 2025.

The Kumeu AMP show had requested if two Judges would be available to judge their Decorated Cakes Section in March 2025. I attended with Florinda Pereira to complete the judging for the competition.

The Wellington Cake and Sugarcraft Competition and Exhibition have just recently sent out dates for the competition to be held 11th -13th July at The Angus Hotel in Lower Hutt, Wellington.

Those Judges available will be attending the competition to judge and hopefully support by entering the competition. The Judges and Stewards will also hold a meeting while in Wellington.

We also hope that the last of the new Judges will be able to complete her practical training in July while attending the competitions in Wellington.

As hopefully after the AGM we will be informed of the dates and venue of Conference May/ April 2026. The Judges and Stewards will then be able to plan for the coming years competitions.

Marilyn Curnow

Judges Co-ordinator

I move that the Judges Co-Ordinator's report for 2025 be accepted.

Secunder Christine Cecil - Tauranga

Michele Barnett, President: All those in favour please say aye by raising their hands. Please lower your hands.

Those to the contrary please raise your hand. Please lower your hands

Any abstentions raise your hand.

Marilyn Curnow, Judges Co-ordinator / Christine Cecil, Tauranga. Carried

Your Judges Co-Ordinator for 2025/26 is Marilyn Curnow.

Are there any questions for Marilyn? No questions. Thank you, Marilyn.

Conference 2026

Michele Barnett, President: Conference 2026 is to be held on 15-17 May at the Silverstream Retreat in Lower Hutt and will be hosted by the Petone Branch. Thank you Petone. Check out the venue, check it out online, it's fabulous. The one thing we ask you not to do at this stage is race off and book accommodation. They have an abundance of accommodation to suit everyone, group accommodation with shared bathrooms, motel studio units, one- and two-bedroom units, three-bedroom houses and even a five-bedroom house. All their accommodation prices are very reasonable. Everything will be onsite including meals.

They have difference types of catering, from corporate catering, suitable for our Saturday night dinner and dining hall catering to suit groups. We will send out more information shortly on what is available at what prices. You will be able to book through the exec and we will put out some registration forms to do that as soon as we have got all the information. So, everything will be onsite, accommodation, meals, demonstrations. Google Silverstream Retreat and have a look. It's absolutely amazing.

Does anyone have any questions at this stage? If so, please raise your hand and I will unmute you. We do have a question from someone in the room.

Mel Cade, Southland: Will you be catering for people's dietary requirements? As you didn't at the last one.

Michele Barnett, President: They can cater for dietary requirements, it's all very venue dependent on how good or bad they do it, but there are places, a lot of the units have their own kitchens and cooking facilities as well, so you could cater for your own dietary requirements if you wish. From memory there is a surcharge for dietary requirements.

Does anyone else have any questions? No

We will now vote on the plaque and then someone from Petone Guild may wish to address you.

The plaque choices for Wellington 2026 are:

Early Settlers

M*A*S*H

Weta

The reason behind the title M*A*S*H is kind of relevant, the Silverstream Retreat used to be a hospital, it was built in the 1940's and was handed to the American Navy to use as a hospital in WWII. It has also been used as a Mental Hospital, amongst other things.

Can you all see the poll on your screens? If anyone has proxy's please let us know.

Ok we think everyone is finished and there is a clear winner.

The plaque title for Wellington 2026 is: Early Settlers. This is relevant as the Early sailings ships that arrived in the 1800's came into Petone.

Is there anyone from Petone who would like to address the meeting?

Mary-Clare Speyer, Petone: Early Settlers we thought was a good choice, the first Europeans that arrived in Wellington actually arrived on Petone Beach and a lot of the streets in Petone are named after those ships, like Aurora, Cuba, so that might be something people think about. There is also a Māori Pā set here in Petone and there is a special cemetery here for the people who were Early Settlers. There is lots of bush in the area that got cleared down, there were Maori wars in the area. It's actually got a lot of history, so we think it's an interesting opportunity to bring out some New Zealand history. We are really excited about it. We mentioned it to our club the other night and they are quite enthusiastic, so we are going to get a good amount of support. Looking forward to 381 people coming next year. And the beauty of it is, that everything is onsite, you won't need to drive, you won't need to find carparks, it's a really good venue and if you want you can go for a morning walk down by the river or do yoga in the grass in front of the accommodation. Bring your yoga clothes and your walking shoes. There's going to be a lot more to do than you could ever imagine. So, looking forward to it girls and guys! That's all we want to say. Thanks

Michele Barnett, President: Thank you Petone. Obviously, I've seen the venue and I'm really excited about it, it's going to be absolutely fabulous.

Now would everyone like to know what the competition schedule is?

The Competition Flower will be an open Lisianthus flower of any variety and colour.

The Celebration Cake is a cake suitable for a wedding. So, a wedding cake and must include a monogram.

The Anything Goes Cake is a design of competitor's choice suitable as a 'Grooms' cake.

The Floral Spray is a spray or arrangement suitable to place on a hat or a fascinator and must contain an edible feather or feathers.

We will put the full schedule out in the magazine.

Now to the demonstrators. With the change of the time of the year, of course the idea was to be able to get a demonstrator from the UK, Europe or the States. So, for 2026, I'll start with the national demonstrator. The national demonstrator will be Tracy Johnson from Timaru, many of you will know and will have met Tracy.

We are hoping for two UK demonstrators who will both do double demonstrations which leaves one spot for a national demonstrator.

Now we are waiting for one UK demonstrators to check his schedule and confirm that he can come and we are just waiting to speak to the other one via zoom once a suitable date and time are arranged. We have decided we will tell you who they are going to be, but we do need you to know that it is not totally confirmed at this point. We will have two UK demonstrators, and one NZ demonstrator, but those UK demonstrators will do double demonstrations each. Three demonstrators work out with our groups and the way we do things. We are actually waiting for Alan Dunn to check his schedule for us, he would like to come but he has been doing a lot of travelling and he needs to confirm that he has those dates free. And the other UK demonstrator is Emma Jayne from Emma Jayne Cakes. She is the lady who does the life size cake structures. She's done Charlie, and the one I saw on the TV was Queen Elizabeth I and she does loads of other stuff, it looks absolutely fabulous. I think we've got something for everybody, I think we've just about got the ultimate, other than some of our own flower making demonstrators. I think Alan Dunn meets the mark. So as soon as we've got confirmation, we will let you know.

So that's Conference 2026 that's looking a bit more there, than it was at the end of last year.

Conference 2027

Michele Barnett, President: As we already know conference 2027 will be held in Nelson. Do any of the Nelson delegates wish to say anything about Conference 2027?

Desiree Thiant, Nelson: We were hoping that since we've done it before that we will use the same venue as we used previously because it is wheelchair friendly, plenty of parking, so that's what we are looking at. They are revamping the place at the moment so it will be great to get it in two and a half years' time, so it's going to look brilliant.

Michele Barnett, President: Does anyone have any questions for Nelson? No. Thank you, Desiree.

Bronwyn Bone, Executive: There is a question from Hillmorton. They want to know dates.

Michele Barnett, President: There won't be any dates set for Nelson until closer to the time. The dates will be set by Conference 2026.

Open forum for discussion

Michele Barnett, President: Now we have the open forum for discussion. If there are any delegates or anyone who is a financial member may speak in this section. We will need you to put your hands up

Jane Sparnon, Waitakere: Hi guys, I would just like to know with the great announcement of demonstrators for Wellington, is there a maximum capacity for Silverstream?

Michele Barnett, President: Silverstream has accommodation, it feels like for about 5,000 people. No, there isn't really. There is loads and loads of accommodation of different types and there is still big spaces at the venue if we need to book those as well. So yes, to answer your question. If all 371 members registered there would be room

Jane Sparnon, Waitakere Well maybe you might get more members joining so that they come to conference.

Michele Barnett, President: That would be absolutely amazing and yes, they can be accommodated.

Does anyone else have any questions or put anything forward?

Annette Smith, Nelson: Can you tell me please, Westpac in Nelson is changing the way you can bank. Normally you would just go and take your money in with your deposit slip in and put it through. Apparently, they are changing now and because we have two signatories to say that we are taking money out or whatever, we now have to go onto a red bag and there is all sorts of documents and stuff they want for us to fill in. Can you tell us what you are doing, whether you are changing any of your banking systems? I'm not sure why they are changing how we bank.

Michele Barnett, President: They are just making sure you aren't laundering any money

Annette Smith, Nelson: I mean the amount of money we bank is such a small amount, that it's so complicated, the new system. So how does everyone else do their banking?

Michele Barnett, President: I wasn't actually aware of any changes

Mel Cade, Southland: I don't know if it is the correct way of doing it but I am a member of a few different organisations and what we have been doing is, for example: if I was doing a fundraiser and I was putting the money into the bank, I would keep that money that we raised and take that dollar figure and I would transfer it into the clubs bank account to get around it, as all the banks are doing it.

Maria Moreno, Treasurer: You can also use the ATM to deposit your money

Michele Barnett, President: From June this year you need a bank card to use the ATM to deposit money. So, it sounds like you need to check with your bank and see how they will do that for you.

Annette Smith, Nelson: It's incredibly complicated. They have sent through a document and I have to get all sorts of information and send it through. I was wondering if we could just bank it into my bank account and transfer the amount and do it that way.

Michele Barnett, President: That's what Mel said they do. As long as your guild is happy about that, that's fine. Obviously, all the banks and branches are going to deal with it differently. Does that help you out a bit Annette?

Annette Smith, Nelson: Yes

Helen Corder, Tauranga: All I was going to make a comment on, from Tauranga branch. I'm the treasurer. I banked our money in cash at our local Westpac, no problems at all, the proceeds from our Demo Day. I do concur with the others that for small amounts I just keep that and transfer the same amount from my account. We have had no notification from Westpac about any changes, although when we did put on a Term Deposit recently, they had to update all the records and because we were opening up a new account, we had to have all sorts of information, but it wasn't onerous, just tick the boxes and away we went. So that is Tauranga branch's experience

Michelle Barnett, President: Thank you, Helen. Any other questions or anything to put forward? Michelle Dawson has her hand up.

Michelle Dawson, Marlborough: If you don't mind, I'll written something out that I would like to read. It's about the Lone Membership.

"I would like to suggest an amendment to the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild constitution. Currently it states:

2.4 Lone Members

Any person who lives further than 50 kms from a Branch of the Guild, may apply for Membership of the Guild as a Lone Member. A Lone Member has the rights and obligations of a member.

I would like to suggest the words' "who lives further than 50 kms from a branch of the guild" be removed.

This would mean 2.4 Lone Members would read:

Any person may apply for membership of the guild as a lone member. A lone member has the rights and obligations of a member.

The rationale behind this suggestion is that

1. Our membership is in steady decline and this is of great concern. I think we need to adapt to embrace a different type of membership with the goal of increasing numbers.
2. I do not think the current criteria reflects the modern lifestyles of cake decorators.

I was the president of the Marlborough branch and was re-elected at the most recent AGM. However, when it was decided that meetings would move to Sundays, I felt I could no longer hold the president's position as I could not be at those meetings. A president needs to be present at meetings and having a home-based cake business means my working week tends to be Thursday to Sunday. Our meetings were on a Tuesday evening. We trialled Sunday afternoons but there was no increase in numbers and people wanted Sundays for family time. However, it was decided to continue with Sunday afternoon meetings. It was a disappointment to have to stand down but I have remained a financial member. I had contemplated joining the Nelson branch but they often meet on Sundays too. I do not feel my case is unique. Most people want their cakes for celebrations at the weekend so other cake decorators must also be impacted by weekend meetings.

I feel the current criteria means we are excluding potential members including shift workers, fly in fly out, people who travel for work, homebound people and people with disabilities, solo parents, small business owners like myself who are disadvantaged by 2.4. as well as those who live remotely who are the lone member and who this clause was intended to include.

I am a member of 2 FB cake groups; New Zealand Registered Cake Businesses and The New Zealand Cake and Cookie Exchange, combined they have a membership of 5500. Some of us are members of the guild but we are all potential members of the NZ Cake Decorators Guild. Many of those FB group members will be in the same position of not working 9-5 jobs Monday to Friday, busy all weekend so often unable to attend branch meetings and so not a member of the guild. If we were able to attract just some of them to join the guild this would be very positive. If just 1% joined then that would be an additional 55 members, 5% would be 275 members.

As stated in the President's annual report 2024; Our membership is in decline. Perhaps making it easier to be a lone financial member could be helpful in increasing membership. The current charge of \$55 that is paid to the guild, would cover 4 editions of the magazine and access to conference attendance and conference competition entry.

This may be incentive enough, but there are methods for including lone members so they can feel a part of the guild network. A private FB group for 'paid up Lone Guild Members' could be started in lieu of a branch.

I can and do join a live cake decorating demos in the UK and Spain and have done so where the demonstrator demonstrates in front of a camera. I'm sure we could investigate this - it would take some effort but I think it would be worth it and if it could increase membership, then that is the ultimate goal

Younger potential members see technology as an essential tool that can be accessed when convenient. We got used to zoom meetings and live streams replacing face to face meetings during COVID. I feel we need to adapt.

There could be a 'Lone Member' meet up at each conference if there were sufficient numbers, profiles of Lone Members on the Everyday Member page of the magazine where they could explain some of the issues unique to them - access to supplies etc. This would provide a feeling of inclusiveness.

During a discussion with the immediate past president, she expressed a concern that having this option might take potential members away from branches, some who are already struggling.

I understand her concern but the whole guild is facing declining numbers and wouldn't it be preferable to have new members even if we have to change our approach and attitude pertaining to membership other than the branch model, than see a continued membership decline?

The proof would be if membership grew, which is our goal"

Michele Barnett, President: Thank you Michelle. So that is a lot to think about. Could be a can of worms, could work really easily. Does anyone have anything they would like to add to that? Or any suggestions on how we might want to take this further.

Jane Sparnon, Waitakere: I think there is some merit in what was raised. Obviously, the numbers are dropping, so we have to look at something and its somewhere to start. We can't just keep doing the same thing and letting the numbers drop so that we end up with nobody. We have to look at options of something to do and like I said this is a good place to start and think about it.

Michele Barnett, President: Yes, I totally agree with you. So do we put it on the agenda for the 2026 AGM where we actually meet in person. Between now and then, if as many branches as possible can put their thoughts together and suggestions

Christine Cecil, Tauranga: Can we possibly have a copy of what Michelle has read out, so we can get our heads around it?

Michele Barnett, President: Yes, and it will be in the AGM minutes.

Christine Cecil, Tauranga: Sorry, how much was it for a Lone Member?

Michele Barnett, President: \$55, same as any other member.

Christine Cecil, Tauranga: So, no branch fee. I guess if they wanted to attend a branch, they would just pay a door charge.

Michele Barnett, President: That would be up to individual clubs. So are you all happy if we put it on the agenda for the 2026 AGM. If it changes it will have to be a remit and if someone would like to put through a remit for 2026, that's ok. Otherwise, nothing would come into place until 2027, because it would have to go to a remit because it's changing the constitution. Lots of pros and cons both ways. Would anyone else like to speak?

Heidi Dunning, Wellington: I just wondered if the person raising this and the other people who think it is a really good idea could speak with some of these people and groups that they belong to and get a feel for if it is something they would actually consider and want to do. Like you said, there is 5,000 people across a couple of different groups there, while you see the benefit for them, do they see the benefit in joining, would be my question. It would be good for when we go to general discussion if some feedback from the people we are trying to attract to see whether they would consider if it was even something they want to do.

Michele Barnett, President: Yes, I think I know what you are saying. So, if they didn't have to join a branch and just join the

National guild would they do that?

Heidi Dunning, Wellington: Yes, would they consider what are the benefits to them. Because part of being part of a branch is that we have the comradery of meeting with people. Certainly, Wellington have a lot of members that never come to meetings, but they want to support the guild and New Zealand guild and so they join every year regardless. I'm trying to get in the head of would these people who you think would want to be members but not join a branch

Michele Barnett, President: And it may be a little bit branch specific as well. I know that Tauranga does have a few members that have joined year after year and we never see them, but we are more than happy for them to join and they support everybody. But other guilds may think differently and maybe it could be just a change of attitude, accept the members, if they don't come, don't put their hands up to do things then that's just the way it is. There certainly is a lot to think about.

Christine Cecil, Tauranga: Just going back to the dates of the conference. Is it ok if I post them onto the Facebook pages because Helen and Ken Robinson have messaged me to find out the dates.

Michele Barnett, President: Dates, places, yes.

Ok, has anybody else got anything they would like to add to Michelle's point or raise anything else?

If there is no further business, I now declare the 39th Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated closed at 2.54pm.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at the Silverstream Retreat, Lower Hutt at 1.30pm.

I would like to thank you all for taking the time to join us today and I hope I see all of you, plus a whole lot more in Lower Hutt, in 2026.

Thank you

Approval for distribution is given.



Michele Barnett
President
New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc.