

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting**

of

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

Friday 1st November 2019

Held on Friday 1st November 2019 at The Bowling Room, Club Waimea, Richmond, Nelson at 1.30pm

President -

We have been advised that mobile phones must be turned off as they will interfere with the recording of the AGM. Could you see that your phones are now turned off. thank you.

President -

Delegate when you wish to speak, please hold up your branch name and wait until you receive the microphone before speaking. Say your branch name first, then your name. At the conclusion of the meeting return the voting cards to the pack and leave them on the chair for collection.

Welcome

Welcome on behalf of the Executive Committee it is a privilege to welcome all delegates and observers to the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated. Of our 38 branches we are represented here today with 28 branches, 2 proxies have been appointed and 10 branches are not represented.

Please stand for a few moments to observe those who have suffered illness and bereavement this year. Thank you.

Apologies

I now call for apologies

Gay Truman, Canterbury, Life Member. Avis Fenton, Eastern Southland, Life Member.

Do we have any other apologies?

Secretary - Fay Wells, Canterbury; Libby Reveley, Redwood; Sandra McSherry, Redwood and Marrian McGonigal, Executive.

President – Do I have a mover for apologies be to accepted?.

Judith Crosland, Central Otago / Joanne Holdaway, Wellington / Carried

Selection of Scrutineers.

Three scrutineers are required to count votes. Do I have one from the South Island?

Maureen McNamara from Redwood. Do I have two from the North Island please, preferably from different branches. Colleen Fellingham from Tauranga, Robyne Whitehead from Kotuku, thank you.

May I have a mover that Maureen McNamara from Redwood, Colleen Fellingham from Tauranga, and Robyne Whitehead from Kotuku be accepted as scrutineers for this meeting?

Mary Clare-Speyer, Petone / Penny Smyth, Redwood / Carried

President - I now ask the Vice President, Shona to take the Scrutineers to an adjoining room to be instructed in their duties.

President - We also require two volunteers to man the cordless microphone please. This involves taking microphones to hand to people who would like to speak. Helen Corder, Tauranga, Freda Finlayson, Foveaux. Thank you, Helen and Freda. your services will be required during discussion points and open forum discussions. Please come forward and collect the microphones.

Minutes

Minutes of the previous AGM have been distributed to all members.

Secretary - I move that the Minutes of the AGM of NZCDG Inc held on the 2nd November 2018 be taken as read.

President - Can we have a seconder please?

Sharlene Fraser, Secretary / Diana Clark, Canterbury / Carried

Are there any amendments to last year's AGM minutes? - No - Thank you.

Secretary - I move that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd of November 2018 be approved and adopted as a true and correct record.

Sharlene Fraser, Secretary / Corrine Wallis, Hillmorton / Carried

Are there any matters arising out of those minutes? No.

President – Sharlene, will you please read the correspondence.

Correspondence since 28th October 2018

Inwards

President
Central Otago Cake Decorating Club
Nominations & Profiles
Nelson
NZCDG Inc.
Highland
Horowhenua & South Otago branches
Margaret Gunderson
NZCDG Inc. President
Magazine Editor
Judges Co-ordinator

Approved AGM Minutes 2018
Bid for 2021 Conference
Executive 2019 Nominations & Profiles
Discussion Point
Discussion Points x2
Remit and Discussion Point
Proxy & Instruction information
Thank you letter
Annual Report
Annual Report
Annual Report

Outwards

President
All Exec, Branch Secretaries
& Treasurers

AGM Minutes 2018 for approval
2019 AGM Agenda, Executive Nominations,
Plaque titles, Discussion points, Remit,
Friday timetable & Guidelines for Delegates, EOY
Financial Accounts
AGM Agenda & EOY Financial Accounts

Lone Members
Aoraki, Auckland Central, Cake Art Taranaki,
Horowhenua, North Canterbury, North Shore,
South Canterbury, South Otago, Taieri Plains,
Tamaki
Horowhenua
South Otago

Proxy Information
Confirmation of Proxy received
Confirmation of Proxy received

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

Sharlene Fraser, Secretary / Jackie Davey, Franklin / Carried

Matters arising from the correspondence.

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

Financial Report

The reviewed Financial Report for the year to the 30th of June 2019 has been distributed to all members.

Treasurer - I move that the Financial Report for the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc for the 12 months to 30th June 2019 be adopted.

Debbie Turner, Treasurer / Judith Crosland, South Otago / Carried

President - Branches wishing to ask questions at the AGM regarding the Financial Reports were requested to pre-advise our treasurer before the 10th of October 2019. (*Financial report attached at the end of these AGM Minutes*)

Two questions were received from Foveaux Cake and Sugar Art. Can I please ask the delegate to stand and speak on the first question?

Donna Deal, Foveaux, Why is promotional funding being given when the accounts are in such a bad way?

President - And you are asking the Treasurer to reply to that?

Donna Deal - Yes.

President - Thank you

Treasurer - Promotional funding was set in place to encourage branches to actively increase public awareness, as well as to encourage members to expand their knowledge, by attending workshops and demonstrations with invited demonstrators from other areas. The exec made the decision to reduce the amount available from \$5000 to \$3000 until further notice.

President - Thank you Debbie. The second question read by the President was; "There were no items for magazine in 2018, what is the \$2,264.94 shown under magazine in the 2019 account for?"

Treasurer - The expenses "wrap and dispatch" last year were included in the print cost. We have broken it down this year to give a clearer picture of how this amount of money is made up, just for accounting purposes so we can see how it is made up.

President - Foveaux, does that answer your question? It does.

You can now see itemised, the costs for magazines, magazine postage, as well as magazine wrapping costs. There was one other question which comes through in the Treasurers report which we will hold over.

Treasurer - I have recommended to all branches that the subscriptions for the year commencing 1 April 2019 be increased from \$33 to \$38 for general and lone members. And overseas members be increased from \$49 to \$60. Affiliate membership remains the same at \$64.

President - Would anyone like to comment on these increases please? We have recommended increasing the 2019 – 20 subscription to \$38 from \$33 for lone members and members and for overseas members from \$49 to \$60. Is everyone happy, is there nothing that you would like to discuss.

All in favour please say aye. Anybody to the contrary please say no. Carried

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

Presidents Report, 2019

Bev Carter presented her report and moved it be accepted (*included at the end of these minutes*).

Bev Carter, President / Jackie Davey, Franklin / Carried

Election of Officers

We have no Election of Officers this year,

Magazine Editors' Report

President - I would like now to call on our Magazine Editor, Bonnie Henry to present her magazine report. Can Bonnie please step forward and have a microphone?

Bonnie Henry presented her report and moved the report be adopted. (*Included at the end of these minutes*).

Bonnie Henry, Magazine Editor/ Unanimous /Carried

President - Thank you Bonnie. Are there any questions, you would like to ask Bonnie? No.

Beth Fuge – Wairarapa. I just want to ask Bonnie, I am quite concerned as I'm not a digital person, are we going to still get a printed magazine? I like to have a book to look at and I feel that I would really be missing out if I didn't have one and we would lose contact that way.

Bonnie - That's for the Executive to answer.

President - Thank you Beth. Yes, you are still going to get a printed magazine, providing subs are paid on time. Late subs will receive a digital copy until subs are current. Your committee will receive a reminder to pay all branch fees on time. This is the only way we can keep our costs down. In the past we have had extra booklets printed for late subs and new members. We can no longer afford to do that. If your subs are paid on-time your magazine will be posted but if subs are overdue yours will be digital until your subs are paid. Have

I made that quite clear? Secondly, it costs anything up to \$1000 per run if we don't supply post codes. From now on, no post code on your address means you will receive a digital copy. Are we all clear on that, or would you like to ask any questions? Thank you. We must keep our costs down.

Judges Co-ordinator's Report

Rosemary Ballard presented her report and moved the report be adopted. *((Included at the end of these minutes)).* Rosemary Ballard, Judges Co-ordinator / Joanne Holdaway, Wellington / Carried

Are there any questions? No

President - Thank you, Rosemary. If you have a question for the judges do take a photo of your piece in question for easy identification this helps the judges help you.

General Business:

Plaque Title for 2020

President - Plaque titles for 2020 are: To ski or not to ski (lake or snow), Tourist Mecca, Freedom Camping. In your pack you will find the voting paper with the plaque subjects on it. Please cross out the titles you do not wish to vote for and hand those to the scrutineers. While the plaque titles are being counted, we will move on.

Remit 1

We have one remit. I would like to call to the microphone the Highland Cake and Sugar Art Group. Would you please read the remit on behalf of your branch?

Tracey Adamson— Highland. What we would like is if the Treasurer could circulate to all branches a Profit/Loss Balance Sheet of the current conference costs following each conference.

Rationale: Our reason for submitting the remit is, previous conference costs have come through for two financial years making it difficult to see whether profit or loss has been made at conferences. This would allow more transparency around finances for individual events. Meaning, if your guild or ours wanted to host a conference, then we would know what we are up against, what kind of things we need to do fundraising or costs related to various to conference costs.

President - Thank you, we have just been read the Remit. Under the constitution where would this remit sit?

It would become:

11, Duties of Office Bearers, D, The Treasurer, number V1. The NZCDG Inc. Treasurer circulate to all branches a profit/loss balance sheet of conference costs following each conference.

Do we have a seconder please?

Secunder: Diana Clark, Canterbury

Does the seconder wish to speak to this?

Diana Clark, Canterbury- Thank you. We just want to second it because Canterbury/Hillmorton hosted it four years ago and despite the venue being free the conference ran at a loss and we still cannot understand why.

President - We will take 3 speakers for and 3 against. Would anyone like to speak for the remit? Would anyone like to speak against the remit. Tauranga? Thank you.

Christine Cecil – Tauranga. We discussed this at our meeting a couple of weeks ago and we all felt that we could on asking receive this information anyway, so we felt there was no need for the remit.

President - Thank you, Christine. Do we have anyone else against the Remit?

Christine - I am neither against nor for but just that the remit isn't necessary because you can ask for it.

President - Thank you. We asked for 3 that would speak for the remit, we didn't get anyone. We asked for 3 to speak against this remit going through. We have one speaker who has said you can ask for this information therefore a remit is not necessary. Anyone else want to speak before we close this.
Thank you.

Penny Smyth – Redwood. This information is already in the minutes, we just need to read it, and have a look at the financial report. One of the things was the costs are done over two years, the costs are still going to be over two or three years for each conference. It is always going to happen that way we can't help it. I don't think we need to put any more work onto the Treasurer who already does a fantastic job. Thank you.

President - Thank you Penny.

Kay Raw – Highland. We are aware that it is spread over 2 years and it's very hard for you to look at two balance sheets and try and work out what the profit / loss of the conference was. So were hoping for a separate balance sheet just for conference expenses.

President - Thank you. I will ask our Treasurer if she'd could respond please.

Treasurer - With our new Xero package, it does allow us to differentiate between the conferences going ahead. It will then give individual reports, but please give us time to get the package working, once it's working efficiently, we will be able to give you that information. I agree with you that it should be shown separately. Going forward we are hoping to be more transparent in the accounts in this area.

President - Thank you Debbie.

In your pack you'll have a green card for yes, a red card for no and a yellow card for abstain.

Please hold up your Green card for Yes. 19 votes - Red for no, 10 votes Yellow for abstaining 1.

I therefore declare the remit carried.

The remit to be written in the constitution under number 11, The Duties of the Office Bearers, D, The Treasurer, V1. The NZCDG Inc Treasurer circulate to all branches a profit and loss balance sheet of conference costs following each conference.

Plaque Titles 2020

I now have our plaque titles for 2020 in Taupo. Freedom Camping is the plaque for 2020. Thank you.

Discussion Points

Discussion Point #1

We now come to our discussion points. The first discussion point, is from Highland, can you please present your discussion point.

Tracey Adamson – Highland. We would like a discussion on the NZCDG conference Friday evening social event. This evening was originally run by the host guild to socialize with others we may not have seen for the year. The NZCDG seems have taken over most of the time with the prize giving, we would like to suggest the prize giving be held at another time. Maybe Sunday at the close of conference. The cost is also unfair to those who have special diets as there is no food suitable for them to consume. We pay money to go to it and if you have to go to it, it would be really nice if you could eat something there. Finally, maybe the club entertainment could be reintroduced, in some form, to this event. We'd just like a discussion on that.

President - Thank you Tracey. Please think very carefully before speaking as each delegate apart from the presenting delegate will be given the opportunity speak only once on a discussion point, unless they are presenting new material. I am going to ask for 3 for this discussion, then I will ask for 3 against. Could we please ask for 3 people that are opposing the proposal that has been put through?

Beth Fuge - Wairarapa

I can see where they're coming from, but the way it is now it is for everyone. We bring our entries; it is the excitement that evening of finding out placings. With that over we can move on to the demonstrations and everything else. We still get to meet one another and mingle, it's an evening where you're going to have something to eat before, it's not a meal. It's like going to someone's house for a cup of coffee and good conversation and you don't need a big feast. You just enjoy one another's company. If it went to the other bit, it draws away from it so Friday is the big excitement that we get over it and go on to everything else. Thank you.

President - Thank you Beth for your thoughts. Do we have anyone else that's opposing what has been presented?

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. For those of you who don't know me I am Wellington Guild, also on the Wellington Competition organising committee, and ex-Exec hat.

Wellington are absolutely for ditching the Friday night event organised by the Executive. We actually tried to can it last year but were voted against. So, the evening has been commandeered by the Executive for the prizegiving, and over previous years it has been noted that some members use that as an opportunity to have Friday night dinner. Like Beth said, it should be a cup of tea, a mix and mingle and a little bit of a snack. But some people take the opportunity to make that their dinner. Which make it hard for catering purposes. Each venue is different, I know for Wellington that the expense of a cup of tea or coffee provided worked out at \$8 / \$9 per cup. Hence why you didn't get tea or coffee last year, sorry team. We just felt it was ridiculous.

In regards for Friday night announcing winners and things. At Wellington show we put all trophies and certificates out on Saturday morning. Nobody seems to have had a problem as yet about rocking in on Saturday morning, going into the exhibition area and going "I got a 3rd" or whatever. And then we do the presentation of the trophies on the Sunday. We have done that for years, definitely over 10 years. We've been going for over 30 now. So, I'm not sure, but it's been a long time and we've had no issues.

Our feeling last year in Wellington was perhaps the Saturday night dinner something more could be made of that. We feel like you all get dressed up, come to a really nice dinner wherever that is and nothing happens. Maybe that's the night, to do the prizegiving. You know you're going to be entering something and you know in your heart whether it's a prize winner or not. Maybe that's your opportunity to turn it into like a gala dinner. That's your prizes/trophy night. I know there's a cost to going to a Saturday night dinner and it's not the cheapest, but if you're not there for Saturday night maybe you could get it on Sunday at the Finale.

The Friday night we feel that the host branch has that opportunity to say, hey we're going to organise, I don't know, a BBQ somewhere, if you want to come along, let us know your numbers, it's going to be 5 bucks, 10 bucks whatever it is each. The host branch takes that back and organises that themselves. The Exec are basically left out of the Friday night thing, it's up to the Host branch to seize that opportunity or not. So that's pretty much us from Wellington.

President - Thank you, Jo. Is there anyone else who wants to speak for the Friday night?

Pat Blayney – Kotuku, Yes, I agree with what Jo said.

President - Is there another one? There is one more opportunity to speak for.

Kathie Rutherford – Gisborne. Now I'm neither for nor against. But I can see there are options in both ways of thinking. Friday night, I come from Gisborne and last year we had 6 people go to conference we all paid to go to Friday night. None of us got anything to eat or drink – but that's not the big issue. To have it on the Sunday, the prizegiving I'm talking about would be probably inappropriate for those having to travel. Collecting items from the exhibition room is hard enough without making it any more pressure on the Sunday. Saturday night great time for prizegiving maybe, because the dinner has kinda fallen a bit flat in the last few years, nothing kinda happening apart from the food. Basically, that's all I've got to say.

President - Thank you Kathie. Now against, Beth spoke against it, from Wairarapa, is there anyone else that speaks against?

May I ask you to think about conference this year, your plaques and competition pieces are here on Friday for judging. Trophies would be placed against your display; they would then be picked up, packed and taken to Headingley our venue for Saturday dinner. Executive time frame is tight without the extra pressure of transporting and setting up trophies ready for presentation during dinner.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. Sorry. You only need to take the trophies, the trophies all have boxes to transport them anyway. I'm sorry but Wellington we have 20 trophies and we transport them easily to the engravers and back on the same day. I don't see a problem with chucking them all in a car boot and taking them to a Saturday night venue if it's in a different place. For the sake of a Gala, amazing formal dinner where you get all this silverware out on a table it'd look great. Just for the argument of a car boot.

President - Thank you, Jo

Unknown - Just supporting Jo, surely, you're not unpacking all of the trophies and bits and pieces before, like if it was in that situation where it was done at the dinner. Surely, you're not unpacking them, then packing them back up again, surely, they're just sitting there somewhere ready to be transported to whichever venue.

President - Would you not put them out on Friday night so that on Saturday the paying public coming would see the trophies, then they have to be packed up on Saturday when trading is finished and taken to the venue, unpacked and ready for presentation. That's the point I would like you to think about.

Unknown - Right O Thank you.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. Spoke again on saving the Guild money by handing the Friday night back to the Host committee.

President – That being the case, the other point that you do need to think about is the gifts that are given and donated. Do they all go out on Saturday, or when would you like to see those given out?. We're talking about the trophies being presented on Saturday night, the certificates staying behind. What about the gift bags? Can somebody speak about that?

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. Jo spoke on her experiences with Wellingtons competitions handing gift bags out on Sunday with the trophies. You can do it on the Saturday night when you give the trophies out is what I'm saying.

President - Thank you, Jo. We've listened to quite a discussion and as I said in my President's Report, you are the ones that come back to us with your ideas and decisions for running an Executive and we consider those. This is a discussion to see how you as members feel, for Friday night, and it's been good to have those for and against.

So, thank you. This discussion point is now closed and we will move on to the next one

Discussion Point #2

The second discussion point is from Nelson, and I would like Nelson representative to stand and read their discussion point please. Linda.

Linda Bunt – Nelson

We in Nelson would like to see the age limit of 14 years removed for members / young ones to become members of the Guild so that our young ones are entitled to full membership from the day they join our guilds. We select the age that we would like to have someone come in but if we do accept them we would like them to be full members of the National Guild, receiving all the benefits. We have three girls in the guild, they have been with us for the last three years, they started at 13yrs onwards. We have two that were able to attend conference who have entered competitions and are delighted to be here. We had to sadly tell one that she could not come. She could come however as a member of the public and pay \$300 but she could not come

as member of the collective. And that seems grossly unfair, if we accept them into our fold why isn't National getting the subscription for being a full member, let them get the magazine, let them have entitlement. We see no reason for this not to happen.

President - Thank you, Linda.

Again, we'd like you to think carefully, we going to have 3 people to speak for it and 3 against. To start with can I have 3 speakers that would support the age group at the moment from 16 coming down.

Linda Bunt – Nelson. We want to take it away.

President - You want to have no age limit?

Linda Bunt – Nelson. Yes.

President - Christine from Tauranga, thank you.

Christine Cecil – Tauranga. We in Tauranga are fully in agreeance with this, with the way things are going with the guild we need to capture those young ones and keep them with us. Because they just vanish if we don't. So long as the branch is up to looking after their young ones themselves and it is not the responsibility of the Executive or anyone else, we fully encourage it.

President - Thank you, Christine.

Kathie Rutherford – Gisborne. I'd like to support this discussion point because I think that there should be no age limit. I know of children who are 9 / 10 years old who are absolutely enthusiastic about cake decorating, one little girl wanted to come with me and I said no you can't, and she said Auntie Kathie I'll be good.

It's not about being good, it's about being able to foster a passion that often starts at a very young age. Why are we knocking if off at 14 years old, they'll go and find something else to do, go and play with their friends. But you know, if the enthusiasm is there, I think we should encourage it as much as we can regardless of the age.

President - Thank you very much, Kathie.

Robyne Whitehead – Kotuku. We definitely support this. We have an 11-year old that comes and she's actually amazing.

President - Thank you Robyne. Now we're going to ask for 3 against doing away with the age limit.

Jackie Davey– Franklin. I've been asked to just say that our club has actually voted against this idea. They feel that at 14 it's still a cost that their parents must provide for them. There are going to be kids that are going to be wonderful and there are 14-year olds that are quite adult, as well as ones that can't be quite adult. I know that when they get into the icing, they thoroughly enjoy it. But it still comes to the fact that they are young and there is nothing to stop them going to the regional ones and develop their craft like that. This is just once a year and we vote against it and keep it at 16. That's what our club decided even though we have some young ones come.

President - Thank you, Jackie. Have we anyone else that would like to speak against? This discussion point is now closed. Thank you.

Discussion Point #3

Discussion number 3, is from the Executive. I will ask Sharlene to read that please?

Secretary - The NZCDG Inc Executive would like to submit the following discussion point for the 2019 NZCDG Inc AGM. In Annex B under Trophies and Exhibitions Una Stuart Shield and the Stuart Shield, the wording to be replaced with the following:

We compete for 2 shields with one vote. The Una Stuart Shield, which was presented in 1988 by our founding president Una Stuart and is open to all branches.

The Una Stuart Shield will go to the branch with the highest number of votes.

The Stuart Shield donated by Una and Wally Stuart in 1996 to further encourage friendly competition between branches along with the Una Stuart Shield.

The Stuart Shield will go to the branch with the highest number of votes, providing they have not won the Una Stuart Shield at the previous three conventions. The previous year's winner of the Stuart Shield is also excluded.

Delegates will have one vote and all plaques will be viewed and selected simultaneously for both shields with one vote. The Chairperson to have the casting vote.

The rationale: The branch plaques are an opportunity for creatively and fun, promoting friendly competition and rivalry between branches. The present wording under the heading of the Stuart Shield stipulates it will go to the branch unplaced at the 3 previous conferences with the highest number of votes. This can be interpreted in many different ways causing confusion of the true understanding from Una and Wally Stuart. The above suggested wording taken from a historical paper leaves the Executive and competitors in no doubt of their intended awarding of these trophies.

President - Thank you, Sharlene. The Exec are asking permission to change the wording in Annexe B of the constitution to make it easier for everyone to understand the placings and what Una and Wally Stuart meant and wanted us to achieve many years ago.

Again, we are going to ask for 3 speakers to support and for 3 opposing. Is there someone that would support changing of the wording please? Jackie from Franklin.

Jackie Davey – Franklin. We agree with it, but we want to put just one word in it that we feel that it just might confuse people. It probably just confuses us. Delegates just have one vote and all plaques will be viewed. We discussed this and my partner thought that it meant that both delegates would have one vote. My wording would be that "Delegates would have one combined vote", if you had two delegates you would have combined vote. Branch delegates would have one combined vote.

President - Branch Delegates will have one vote per Branch and all plaques will be viewed as one.

Mary Parker - Marlborough

Each branch will have one vote from which the winner is calculated for the Stuart Shield and the winner of other one.

President - Thank you.

Unknown - The idea was to encourage those who were always losing.

President - Yes, that's exactly right. The wording of **unplaced** is the stumbling block because unplaced means 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Unplaced in what, it doesn't stipulate.

Joyce Croucher – Lone Member/Life Member. As a past president and one of the dinosaur's of NZ Cake Decorating Inc. Una and Wally, Una was our founding president. It's disrespectful to change their wording, we have to live with, we have all these years, and we have managed. I personally think if they have lived longer they would have tweaked it but I know you have reported an apology from Avis but I know I am speaking for her and I feel very emotional of this, it is very disrespectful to disrespect our founders what they said is what we go with. We can't, if we start tweaking it, we will never finish.

President - Thank you Joyce. The discussion is about taking the wording back to the original meaning. We cannot find the word “unplaced” in any of the original wording. It would never be our intention to be disrespectful.

Penny Smyth – Redwood. I just want to say the same thing. Why was the wording ever changed in the first place?

President – It appears the wording has been changed? Can anyone tell us when the wording was changed?

Penny Smyth – Redwood. Why was it ever changed from what was the original wording? We should be going back to the historical, what Una and Wally had written in the first place. Just leaving it at that.

President - We have gone back to historical wording and this is what used to be announced. Somewhere along the line, and I can't answer that, it has been changed to read wording that is in the Constitution at the moment. And the constitution at the moment says “unplaced” which means 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

Joyce Croucher – Lone Member/Life Member. We must not disrespect them!

Beth Fuge – Wairarapa. You've had your bit.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. I'm not sure exactly where we're going and what we're doing I think there might be some miscommunication of what we're talking about. Are we talking about that currently the Shield is being awarded to a plaque or Guild that hasn't previously placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd or are we talking about awarding a plaque to a Guild hasn't placed. What did we do last year? What do we want to do?

President - The Una Stuart Shield only has one rule and that is; 'The Una Stuart Shield will go to the plaque with the highest number of votes.

The Stuart Shield kindly donated some years later was brought in so that more people had an opportunity to win. It became the Stuart Shield. The winner being the branch with the highest number of votes, providing they had not won the Una Stuart Shield in the past 3 years. Once they won the Stuart Shield, they were exempt from winning the following year.

It's the word of 'unplaced' when we look back, different years have voted in different ways, and this is what we are trying to establish now. Going back to historical wording is what we are proposing.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. So historically...what's the wording historically?

Julie Ede – Exec. I have been talking to the Exec about this and not being disrespectful to Una or Wally. I was around when these things were brought in. What I wanted was the wording to go back to what the original wording on the trophy meant. And that's what we are trying to do, is to get it back to the original wording. Not there's a 1st, 2nd and 3rd, Back to it's original, somewhere along the line it changed to this word 'unplaced'.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. So, my question is what does the wording say, on the trophy?

Julie Ede – Exec. We need to take another look at what is on the back of the Stuart Shield. We wanted to go back to the original. We don't disrespect.

President - The Stuart trophy is not in the room with us. If someone can bring it in.

Unknown - My question is that when the Una Stuart Shield was first presented was there a 2nd and 3rd? Because it's one trophy?

Julie Ede – Exec. Originally there was the Shield and they were given a rosette for 2nd and 3rd. That's only been changed that they get a certificate for 2nd and 3rd. There has only been one winner and that's the Shield. They have just out of courtesy been given either the ribbon originally or the certificate.

President - Thank you, Julie, we will move on while the Stuart Shield is being located.

Discussion Point #4

The last discussion point presented by the Executive. Out of respect we wanted to bring to the meeting rather than make our own alterations. Apparently, the Exec have the right to alter the wording in the Constitution Annex without consultation with the members. However, we feel it's important, out of respect, to bring these Annex changes to an AGM.

Secretary – It is our discussion point that in Annex A, Annex B and Annex C we want to add the dates these trophies were presented. The trophies in question are the Una Stuart Shield, the Stuart Shield and the President's Trophy. If dated when first presented it gives a historical record. What we have found so far, the Una Stuart Shield was first present in 1988, the Stuart Shield was in 1996 and at the stage we have no date for the President's Trophy. But we have since found the date could have been 2004.

Secretary - 2004. I will check with Julie as she has done a lot of work trying to find these dates. All we are bringing to the meeting is the fact that we would like to add the dates into the Annex to record the historical information.

President - Thank you, Sharlene. So, the Stuart Shield would say presented in 1996 at the 10th Anniversary. At the moment it just says presented at the 10th Anniversary, and we're saying 'when was the 10th Anniversary?' We weren't around, or we weren't coming in 1996 and it's really nice and important to keep those dates in front of us. The Exec would like the wording to say: Presented in 1996, at the 10th Anniversary of NZCDG Inc. by Una and Wally Stuart to further encourage friendly competition between branches with the Una Stuart Shield.

Is everyone in favour of adding dates to the three Trophies in question?

I do feel that it is important to bring these Annex discussion points to an AGM rather than them just be changed.

Lynn Miers – Northern Wairoa. I would like to ask if we could have the number of the Shield as well as the name because as delegates we are only voting for a number. When the prizes are given out. You normally give a name of who has won but it means nothing.

President - Exactly, right. Ok, thank you.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. Sorry Bev. With the Annexes and adding the dates in, in light of the Stuart Shield discussion I wondered if there is a record of what is actually written on all of the trophies.

I know from other organisations I belong to that we have gone through a process of actually taking a photo of the front and back of every trophy and writing and actually noting down in a document for example, the date it was donated or awarded, along with any words as to, a phrase or a saying or a reason why that particular trophy was donated. In the case of the Stuart Shield it would be really good to have what's actually written on it. In case it goes missing.

President - Jo, you have been on the Exec for a long time, are you able to answer that for me?

(General laughter.)

Jo Holdaway – Wellington

I can nearly answer it. I don't think there is a record anywhere of what is written on all the trophies.

Which I think is a good opportunity to actually do it. Because once they leave here and go around the countryside, if heaven forbid someone had a house fire and that trophy burnt and melted. Did we know what it looked like?

President - Yes, we do have a photo of all packaging alongside each coloured photo the trophy.

Jo Holdaway – Wellington. And do you know what is inscribed on it? That's why it is good to have a document stating what is actually written on it.

President - The Exec only see the trophy's when they are handed in, however you have a good point.

Conference Venue for 2021.

Central Otago Cake Decorators Guild have advised that they wish to bid for the Conference 2021. Central Otago please come forward and present your invitation.

Judith, another long-term Executive member.

Judith Crosland – Central Otago. Central Otago Cake Decorating Club, Alexandra would like to put a bid in for the South Island Cake Decorating Guild conference in November 2021. We are a small group of cake decorators, cake decorating enthusiasts and our club has been around for 29 years. Our members come from a large area from Cromwell, Ranfurly, Palburn, Omakau, Clyde as well as Alexandra. Some of them travelling up to 80km for a meeting. Alexandra is a small town in the middle of Central Otago that started out as a goldmining town in the 1800's. Population around 6000. Known for its beautiful wine and fruit growing, as well as sheep and cattle. Sorry, no cherries or apricots at this time of year but still plenty of wine. Walking, cycling tracks around Central Otago are extremely popular. The Roxborough Gorge trail the Clutha Gold trail, trout fishing on our beautiful lakes and rivers, river cruises to some of the old gold mining sites and Highland Motorsport Complex at Cromwell. Our museum with stories of long ago, there are plenty of activities available. We would love for you to come and join us for our very first conference, for fun beautiful food and wine, stay a while and visit some of the historic gold mining towns around Central Otago and beautiful Queenstown. Nearest airport is 80km, approx. 1 ¼ hours' drive away. Dunedin is 190km, approx. 2 hours away. Alexandra has approx. 8 motels, 2 holiday parks for camping, cabins and motels and the NZCA motorhome site. There are B&Bs, AirBnBs and quite a few holiday homes for rental. Beautiful historic Clyde also has accommodation 10 minutes down the highway. Cromwell and Roxborough have a wide selection of accommodation also. It will be a simple no frills conference, so come and join us.

(Applause)

President - Thank you very much, Judith. I had the pleasure of being hosted down there in the middle of winter and I'll tell you they are ready to welcome you with open arms, every business, motel and complexes we looked at, they couldn't do enough to have every one of you visit. So please start putting your dollars and cents to one side ready for 2021.

A small addition I thought would be rather nice, this year to say Congratulations to the two branches who have brought the biggest contingents to this conference. From the North Island it's Tauranga and from the South Island it's Nelson.

(Applause)

I have had two small donated gifts for you, so if you like to come up after the AGM they will be sitting here waiting for you, to take back to your branches. Thank you.

As Central Otago, is the only vote are you happy to, accept Central Otago for the 2021 Conference.
Yes. (applause)

President - Absolutely unanimous. Thank you, Central Otago we look forward to it.

As we only had one vote this AGM may I have someone move that all voting papers be destroyed by the scrutineers at the conclusion of the plaque selection after AGM.

All those in favour of those being destroyed. Thank you.

Penny Smyth – Redwood / Jean Webb – New Plymouth / Carried

We will now go into an open forum discussion. If anyone in the room would like to discuss a matter, you must be a financial member of the NZCDG Inc. you may speak at this time. It must be new material, not something we have discussed at this AGM. Is anyone wanting to bring up anything different?

Joyce Croucher – Lone Member/Life Member

It does relate to a former discussion, in the 1980's when the first guild that held the Friday night evening it was Gore, it was nibbles and a get together. And from there evolved the Friday night function which was always the Host's night. They would do what they want, and many of them chose at that time to put on skits. We had an era of fun. We had some fun times. Many of those older members would agree with me wholeheartedly. When you've got taken, it has been commandeered by the Exec, it's a fact. And it is supposed to be the Hosts night to do whatever they wish, if they want to put nibbles on okay, if they didn't no. Cheese and biscuits is what we got at Gore and it evolved from there to a time when it became a little bit financially difficult and a charge was introduced. But it was still the Hosts night. When does the Host get any return for their input into conference, today? They just do the donkeywork. Hulloo!

President - Lovely, thank you very much. It's nice to hear views from people. Have we got anyone else who'd like to speak?

Laura Neustroski – Wairarapa. I agree with Joyce, re dinner, Friday being hosted. But also, I want to put a thought out there for having the dinner on the Friday night with prize giving and Saturday having the host doing their thing. Then we get our prizes and we can carry on, Saturday we can enjoy our hosts that night.

President

Thank you, we're moving back to old information we have discussed before. Is there anything anyone would like to bring up that is new and hasn't been discussed at this AGM? There is one back there.

Gillian Belton – Westland. We've talked about this at our meeting and we wondered we put forward a proposal to post all the magazines out to the guild all in one lot. To save the postage.

President - That used to be done a long time ago, but the members decided they would like to receive these individually.

Gillian Belton – Westland, Given the financial statement and our position it could be a saving. Instead of individually posting it. That's just an idea.

President - The *Una Stuart Shield* has been brought into the meeting not the *Stuart Shield* that we were hoping. At this stage the *Stuart Shield* has not been returned ready to the evening's prizegiving. I will report the findings later.

Kathy Rutherford – Gisborne. I just like to bring up something that may open a bit of a can of worms. One of my concerns about conference is the dietary requirements of some people, and I happen to be one of these people and the issue for me is not so much that I don't have any morning tea because gluten free food has been eaten by other people. The issue I do have is that we can't bring our own food, now since I have been diagnosed as being coeliac, I need to be very, not overly careful but careful of what I eat. If I can't bring something that suits me to a conference, then I'm sorry I won't come. Because I have been sick after going to venues where I've been subjected to something that upsets me. But it just happens to be a bit of an issue with me and I'm sure there are other people in the same boat. And there, this year we don't have a choice for lunch, now I may not like what they give me. But I certainly will like what I bring because I know it's something I do like and I can eat. Just an idea.

President - Thank you Kathy, We are told Waimea have gone out of their way to supply plated named special diets. The list has become huge and varied we wondered how they would react. You'll have on your badge a little happy face. So, your happy face will take you to a special table, with your name on it. It's something we struggle with, with venues, it's a venue related requirement that we work with. Believe me, we do try hard so Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to speak before we close?

Any other open discussion before we close? Thank you. I wish to thank all scrutineers and microphone operators for their services this afternoon. Thank you. At the conclusion of this meeting would the delegates please proceed to the back of the Executive table to vote for the plaques? Take your voting paper, out of your

pack, please allow the delegates who are judges to make their walk through first, as they need to return to judging. The space is a wee bit narrow, however you can go around twice, if necessary.

Please place your voting packs on the chair when you leave.

I would like to declare the 33rd Annual meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc closed at 3.25pm.

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at Wairakei, in Taupo on Friday the 6th November, 2020.

Thank you so much for coming. It's been lovely to have so many with us; we will see you tonight.

These Minutes are yet to be confirmed. Approval for distribution is given.

Bev Carter
President
New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc

Presidents Report, 2019

It is with pleasure, I present my Presidents report for 2019, to the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Incorporated.

We welcome to Nelson 145 members, who have registered for Conference. Our Hosts, Nelson Cake Decorators Guild, are enthusiastic and well prepared, to ensure we all have an enjoyable conference in their beautiful City.

Our Membership currently stands at 642 members, consisting of, 9 Life Members, 2 Lone Members and 3 Overseas Members, encompassing 38 Branches. Today we have 47 Delegates and 2 Proxy votes representing these 38 Branches. It has been disappointing to see two Branches close during the year, Nth Otago and Hamilton, which had a longstanding history of a very strong and active Branch. Very sorry to see them move on. Taking these losses into account I believe we have maintained our level of membership having gained new members throughout the year. The third branch which slipped off the radar by not renewing membership was Wine Country. We could only assume this Branch had closed as well. Focusing on the positive we congratulate every member, for their contribution and support you give to your Branch, and the Guild as a whole. Your contributions to our magazine are very much appreciated. It is a lovely way to keep in touch.

Waitakere remain the largest North Island Branch with 65 members, and Westland the largest South Island Branch with 25 Members. To all Office Bearers in every Branch, big and small, thank you for your dedication and hard work. Our personal lives are busy, and to have hardworking committees in the background of every Branch is a credit to you all. Do keep up the good work.

Our Executive Committee meetings have been hosted this year by Taupo, Tauranga, Nelson, and New Plymouth. A huge thank you to these branches for giving their time in organising accommodation, meeting venues, transport and very much more. It has been a pleasure getting to know you all while sharing your warm hospitality.

Finance: A decision was made to upgrade our Finance package to Xero this year, giving more control in managing income and expenditure, sending invoices, reporting on unpaid accounts and receipting monies received. Xero is cloud based, which means our accountant has easy access when necessary. We are now able to apply improved budgeting processes to curb escalating costs, and hopefully better financial returns. Debbie, our Treasurer, has worked tirelessly this year to achieve these results, thank you Debbie.

I would like to thank Heidi Dunning - who continues to take full responsibility as Web Master. We are grateful to Heidi's **ON CALL** ability, to offer professional help when required. I am aware some members still have difficulty accessing the Web page. Please do contact our Web Liaison person to ask for help if this happens to you. The Web is a wonderful marketing tool, for Branches to provide flyers and posters to advertise upcoming events. Make good use of the service, you never know when another member is in your area and wants to make contact.

Special thanks must again go to Bonnie, her dedication in presenting our magazine for all members to enjoy is very much appreciated. Our magazine is produced to a very high standard and a joy to receive, thank you Bonnie. It is, however, only as good as the information you provide for Bonnie to use; please don't forget she welcomes your contributions. Helping in the background are the proof-readers, Lois Diaper and Sandra Angove.

Thank you must also go to Geoff Raynel – Photographer, who works quietly in the background each year, snapping photos for you to enjoy.

Alistair Crosland has again offered to take responsibility for organising and producing the conference USB. We are appreciative of Alistair taking up this task.

Our increasing AV costs are a concern we do need to address. AV costings reaching upward of \$7,000, to record our AGM and demonstrations, adds a considerable amount per person on registrations. Many pending International Demonstrators no longer give permission to record demonstrations, due to the ability to release

via social media, when their income is solely derived from Cake decorating. This is something we need to address.

We extend our thanks to the team of Stewards and Judges who volunteered to undertake receiving and judging your masterpieces this year. Thank you, Team, your service is appreciated, and I know all competitors look forward to the results.

We are always grateful to our Sponsors and Advertisers for their generosity and continued support – this also assists in keeping our magazine costs down. Our Traders this year are small in numbers, but by you supporting them, making the long distance they travel, at great cost, worthwhile.

This year, the Exec became aware of major venues changes. With overseas buyers, now purchasing some venues, we had to contend with changes for 2020. Initially room rates were shown; however, hiring is based on the number of attendees using each room, each day. A deposit as we knew it, has become the Total Venue Cost to be paid up front 15mths in advance. We have endured months of negotiation, to finally achieve three allocated payments, which are still required before the event takes place. As the goal posts has changed after our initial meeting, we were grateful to be allowed to do that in three different lots. We are grateful to the Taupo Branch and the Hosts for 2020 for sitting patiently, in no-man's land, while negotiations took place. Thank you, Taupo, you were very very patient.

With changing times, this is something future Exec and proposed hosts need to be aware of when searching for suitable conference venues. Venues fit for **our** purpose, are specific in nature, becoming harder to find, especially under one roof.

Our Executive team have struggled in terms of Exec experience this year. Having three new Exec members, meant only two of the seven had three years' service in current years. Personally, I have been most appreciative of the help and guidance of Past Presidents and Secretaries in times of need.

I have been supported by a wonderful team, who have stepped into their given roles with dedication and enthusiasm. Sharlene, our Secretary has had an enormous learning curve, and big shoes to fill, taking over the role of secretary, with no previous Exec experience to call on. Being Secretary is a pivotal position which comes with 32yrs of history to research and understand. I'm sure Sharlene will find the coming year more meaningful. Debbie, Treasurer and Judges Liaison, undertook an enormous role in upgrading the accounting software, and transferring data, her knowledge in accounting served us well. Shona VP, Conference Liaison and Demonstrator Secretary for 2019, and Marrian, Magazine and Trade Liaison as well as Web Liaison, have both willingly taken on **all extra jobs, asked of them this year**, I have been very grateful for this, thank you very much ladies. We are sorry to not have Marrian with us this weekend, but wish her a speedy recovery, from her pending major surgery. Elaine, Conference Administrator, has been supported in her role by Dorothy White. This role was a big undertaking as a 1st year Exec member, thank you Dorothy, and Elaine, you have managed exceptionally well. Thank you. Elaine didn't think so at times. Julie's portfolio, Demonstrators Secretary and North Island Conference Liaison for 2020. This has been a quiet year for Julie, because of the problems we have taken a lot of that work off her to do some sorting out, but we hope to hear much more from Julie in the coming year. Thank you, Julie.

This year has certainly brought challenges; however, the mix has been enjoyable and rewarding. You, our members are ultimately our decision makers, and I thank you for your continued support. I do encourage you to think of stepping forward for nomination onto the Exec. Committee. Being a part of the Executive team allows you first-hand experience in running our Guild. All you need is time, discipline, patience and dedication to be vigilant in all levels of communication, whether it be e-mails, letter writing, filing, listening or phoning. Not forgetting good computer knowledge in Word and Excel and of course a sense of humour in the mix. That's not very much to fulfil. There's a lot of support.

Enjoy Conference, renew friendships, make new friends, keep well and travel safe until we meet again. Thank you.

Bev Carter
President 2019

Magazine Editor report

Good afternoon.

2019 has been an interesting year, firstly adapting to a new laptop which was purchased for the Magazine Editor position. While it is faster, it is smaller than the previous one and a monitor is being used to assist with the magazine work. Thank you to Elaine and Steve Goldthorpe for the donation of the monitor.

The magazine has been digitally set up for reciprocal distribution, which is forwarded by the Magazine Liaison and as a separate version, was assigned an International Standard Serial Number, ISSN 2703-2957. The printed copy retains the number ISSN 1176-5011.

The July issue included as the centre page, the registration form for the Conference 2019 Partners' tour and Sunday evening dinner.

Branch news submissions have not increased this year, but photos accompanying news, has. Sending photos is encouraged, but if none are available, do not hold back from submitting your news.

Thank you to everyone who submits material on time or even early, it assists in producing the magazines in a timely manner. I do appreciate it, as do the proofreaders. Proof reading in any publication is to be valued and I do value and thank Lois Diaper and Sandra Angove for their proof reading.

Thank you also to Marrian McGonigal, the Magazine Liaison, it is a pleasure working with Marrian.

I look forward to the continuation of receiving news, articles, photos, anything felt suitable for your cake decorating magazines.

Bonnie Henry

Magazine Editor

NZCDG Inc. Judges Coordinators Report November 2019

It gives me pleasure to present this report to you today. My first year as Judges Coordinator has had challenges and also highlights.

It was encouraging to see the high standard of Competition entries at the 2018 Wellington Conference competition. With the introduction of the Intermediate section we hope that this will encourage more of you to enter.

Please remember the Judges are always happy to discuss your entries with you. Please photograph your entry before approaching a Judge so we can consult in private and not be overheard. The Judges are not scary but delight in the chance to help by conversing with you. Even if you don't have an entry but just need some guidance.

Thanks to the Wellington Combined Guilds for the professionalism and the high standards met in the presentation of their Competition in July. I was blown away with the number of entries and the high standard, especially the creativity shown by the competitors. The large number of entries in the Children's section was a delight to see. Hillary Marshall, a lone member from Palmerston North, encouraged her entire class of Intermediate Pupils to enter, and drove them to Wellington in the school van on Friday to stage their entries, then brought them back for prizegiving on Sunday. Hillary you may not be here in Nelson but I just wanted to acknowledge your dedication.

In early August 11 of 15 Judges spent 3 days in Taupo to learn from me the art of Wafer Paper Flowers so we are better equipped to Judge your entries. We rented a large Air BnB for the weekend and all contributed to the food to keep the costs down as all costs for upskilling are met by the Judges themselves. This includes arriving at Conference a day early for our meeting at discuss the schedule for the conference competition.

The Taupo weekend was a tight learning curve with many not believing that they would meet my high standards. A wonderful weekend of camaraderie and learning. Please view the beautiful wafer paper flowers from our upskilling weekend at the Exhibition. We are planning another upskilling in Wellington in July. There is also planning underway for 2 Stewards courses in March and July in Wellington. Please see Bonnie, Sandra A, or myself for details if you are interested in attending, otherwise any Judge will be willing to help.

Just to clarify a matter that has been raised. The Judges on arrival at a Cake Competition Venue are under instruction of the Competition organisers as to where we gather while waiting to go into the Competition area. We are not there to intimidate the Competitors or take note of their entry. We Judge the work presented to us, not the person. All the Judges pride themselves on their discretion.

After the misunderstandings between the Executive and the Judges last year we looked forward to better communication between us. Sadly, this has not always been the case. Please remember we are all members of the NZCDG Inc. just like all of you.

The Judges and Stewards are a dedicated group of Cake Decorators that have spent many hours and several thousand dollars to train as Judges and Stewards to encourage Competitions at which, we believe the standard of our art is improved. As a group we believe that Competitions are valuable so on being informed that Wellington had run their Competition at a loss we took it upon ourselves to provide motel accommodation at our own expense to help them. We are willing to demonstrate for your Guilds, or just come and talk about Judging with you. We all realize that we have our weaknesses and strengths when it comes to techniques, but by constant upskilling we do know what to look for when it comes to Judging.

This year the Judges have also created a Messenger group which we find valuable as it allows constant communication between us as well as a method of sharing photos.

I wish to thank the Judges for their support this year.

On a personal level I would like to explain my medical condition as comments have been made about my ability to Judge. After an accident in 1996 I received major hip, spinal and neck injuries. Because I choose to present myself well, like a normal person, this is detrimental to my situation, because you only see the outer shell. The procedure to correct my back and hip pain resulted in medical misadventure which affected my spinal structure, making one leg 7cm shorter than the other. As a result of this to alleviate the pain I need to wear high heels. I am able to walk short distances without my sticks, but in a group situation I am afraid of falling, so as I cannot stand for long, I choose to use the wheelchair for my safety and to allow me to enjoy the Conference as you all do. At times I knit to take my mind off my pain level and give my mind and hands something to think about, not the pain.

No one should have to explain their situation, whether it be food allergy, injury or any other condition.

Thankyou

Rosemary Ballard
Judges Coordinator 2019.

New Zealand Cake Decorators Guild Inc.

19 September 2019



To: Executive Committee Members, Branch Presidents, Secretaries, and Lone Members

I am pleased to be able to forward to you a copy of the Annual Financial report of the NZ Cake Decorators Guild Inc. for the financial year 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. Also included is the Reviewer's Report.

Please take time to discuss the report with your committee and members prior to your delegate(s) travelling to the AGM in Nelson. Ensure that your delegates have a copy of this report with them at the AGM for reference.

You will note that the Conference Expenditure has exceeded Income by \$21,592.56. This is due to the 2018 National Conference at Te Papa running over budget. Going forward the executive are working hard to ensure that future conferences will once again be self-funding.

The Guilds income from subscriptions, Interest and Magazine Advertising etc., has not been enough to cover the expenses to run our organisation. This year we have changed the accounting package from MYOB to Xero. While there is a monthly charge this package allows more flexibility in record keeping, is recognised by accountants as a premium package, is user-friendly, with all data saved in the cloud. Adding this year's loss of \$4,459.20 to the 2017 and 2018 conference losses leave an overall shortfall of \$27,316.27.

This year we have 627 members compared to 685 last year. Taking into account the three Branches who folded this year our membership has remained steady. Executive costs are continually monitored as are all other costs. The AGM Minutes along with as many reports as possible are now e-mailed as per the remit passed last year.

Magazine printing and distribution is now monitored closely to avoid wastage by over printing. Magazines are only printed for financial members. When subscriptions are due it is important Branches on-pay them to the Treasurer for members to receive their magazine when due. Late payments will receive a digital copy after which they will receive the printed copy as normal.

Overseas members receive their magazines digitally. If a hard copy is requested postage is now added to their subscription. Our magazine costs are partially covered by our advertisers. The shortfall is something the Executive will be looking at in the coming year as more advertisers would help immensely. Unfortunately, the more our membership drops the more our magazine cost rise. To print, wrap and post our magazine currently costs \$25.26 per person per year.

In 2004 a remit was passed that subscriptions be increased by \$1.00 per year. Unfortunately, this wasn't carried through, partly due to a surplus of funds in the bank. With escalating costs, conferences in the last couple of years have not paid their way.

As Treasurer I recommend subscriptions be increased to \$38.00 and overseas to \$60.00.

Conference venues are fast becoming out of reach for non-profit organisations such as ourselves, when conference attendance is supported by approximately one third of our membership. Your current Executive will be searching for the best value for money for future conferences.

The books this year show an opening balance of \$77,199.26, however once budgeted conference expenses are paid the expected balance will be approx. \$32,000. Our ideal contingency plan needs to be a minimum of \$50,000 in the bank to cover deposits required for the following conference plus any shortfalls in running expenses. Managing finances within our financial year involves paying final accounts for the previous conference, paying up front costs for the current conference as well as paying deposits to hold venues for the following year. It really is a juggling act.

If your Branch has any queries relating to the Annual Financial Report, please contact me in writing or e-mail treasurer@nzcakeguild.org.nz by 10th October 2019. This will allow me to provide a full comprehensive answer at the AGM.

I would like to thank the Executive Team and Helen Corder for their support. I look forward to seeing many of you in Nelson.

Kind regards

Debbie Turner
Treasurer
NZ Cake Decorators Guild Inc.