



Food Writers New Zealand - Annual General Meeting 2018

The Annual General Meeting of Food Writers New Zealand held in the Barrel Room, Villa Maria Estate, Mangere, Auckland on Monday 15 October 2018

Meeting Called By: Niki Bezzant - President

Present:

Anslie Ballinger, Alan Brown, Alessandra Zecchini, Alexia Santamria, Amber Bremmer, Andre Taber, Andrea Bidois, Dr Angela Maynard, Annalese Webber, Annie Bastow, Ashia Ismail-Singer, Lisa Moloney, Bec Stanely, Belinda Abernethy, Carmel Ireland, Paula Dudley, Catherine Milford, Chrissy Denison, Christine Hall, Denise Irvine, Felicity O'Driscoll, Fiona Hugues, Fiona Smith, Gail Todd, Ginny Grant, Jane Binsley, Jennifer Yee-Colinson, Jill Brewis Henriod, Jo Bridgford, Julie Legg, Claire Owen, Gemma Carroll, Kate Underwood, Katherine Froggatt, Nicola McConnell, Kathy Paterson, Lauraine Jacobs, Lesley Christensen-Yule, Lisa Loveday, Liz Oldfield, Prof Lynnette Ferguson, Manja Wachsmuth, Maria Middlestead, Mark Fort, Linda Conning, Mark Collins, Marlaina Curtis, Mel Rushton, Melissa Koh, Michelle Jones, Nalini Baruch, Natasha McGill, Nick Taylor, Nicola Fraher, Niki Bezzant, Patrick Lee-Lo, Pip Duncan, Rentia Greyvenstein, Sarah van Boheemen, Sarah Hanrahan, Sharon O'Loughlin, Shona Dickson, Siana Clifford, Sophie Gray, Suzanne Wakelin, Tracey Sunderland, Trudi Nelson, Vanessa Baxter, Vicki Ravlich-Horan, Victoria Harris, Victoria Wells, Victoria Carpenter, Vicki-Lee Goode, Olivia Deadman, Gus Tissink, Jan Bilton, Fiona Nuggent

Apologies:

Helen Jackson, Susan Mcleary, Anthony and Angela Tringham, Jan Bennett, Robyn Martin (Proxy: Jan Bilton) Margret Brooker (Proxy: Kathy Paterson) Catherine Bell (Proxy: Ginny Grant) Celia Hay (Proxy: Niki Bezzant) Mary Taylor (Proxy: Jan Bilton) Grant Alan

5 Proxy's

Minutes Taken By: Rachel Nui

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1	<p>MEETING OPENS at 10.15am</p> <p>Niki Bezzant opens the 2018 Annual General Meeting for Food Writers NZ</p>	

	<p>APOLOGIES – Rachel Nui read out the apologies to members present as noted above.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</p> <p>Minutes of the 2017 AGM were circulated prior to the AGM and a printed copy was handed out to members in attendance.</p> <p>Motion: That the minutes of the previous AGM held in Napier on Saturday 04 November 2017 be approved as a true and correct record of that meeting</p> <p>Moved: Niki Seconded: Pip Duncan</p> <p>Carried by All</p> <p>Abstentions: Student, Associate, Corporate members present</p>	
3.	<p>Matters arising from minutes : Nil</p>	
4.	<p>PRESIDENT’S REPORT:</p> <p>President’s report circulated via email to Professional and Life members prior to AGM</p> <p>Niki read out her President’s report to those present at the AGM</p> <p>Food Writers is welcoming and relevant</p> <p>Niki thanked everyone for their support</p> <p>Presidents Report attached.</p> <p>Motion: To Accept the President’s Report for 2018.</p> <p>Moved: Niki Seconded: Trudi Nelson</p> <p>Carried by all</p> <p>Abstentions: Student, Associate and Corporate members present</p>	
5.	<p>TREASURERS REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31July2018:</p> <p>The treasurer’s report was circulated to Professional and Life members prior to the AGM via email.</p> <p>Financial reports for 2018 were circulated to Professional and Life members of the Guild prior to the AGM. Printed copies were also circulated to those members present at the AGM.</p> <p>Andrea Bidois read out the Treasurers report to those members present at the AGM.</p> <p>Surplus of \$12K</p>	

	<p>Andrea noted that having a modest surplus each year is beneficial as this can be used in other areas such as the Awards.</p> <p>Motion: To accept the treasurer’s report and the End of Year Financial Report for 2018.</p> <p>Moved: Andrea Seconded: Jenny Yee Collinson</p> <p>Carried by all</p> <p>Abstentions: Student, Associate, Corporate members present</p>	
6.	<p>Updates to Constitution</p> <p><i>Voting: Quorum -</i></p> <p>40. <i>At any meeting of the Executive Committee five members shall constitute a quorum.</i></p> <p>This does not state in the constitution that this is only Professional members as we have co-opted corporate members to the Executive. It was suggested to drop the quorum for the Executive Committee. Suggested to update the constitution to allow for members to phone in for voting if unable to attend meetings.</p> <p>Put to the Executive to amend the constitution to state that a quorum for the Executive Committee be 50%</p> <p><u>REMIT:</u></p> <p>Amendment to the constitution that the quorum for Executive Committee meetings be amended to 50%</p> <p>Motion: Niki Seconded: Felicity</p> <p>Carried by all</p> <p>Abstentions: Student, Associate, Corporate members present</p> <p>Second suggested remit from 2017 AGM To review the corporate membership fee structure with a view to aggregate membership fees for PR Firms – this has not yet been looked at so will look into this in the future</p>	
7	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>For the next term the position of President and Vice President are vacant.</p> <p>Election of Officers</p> <p>Nominations have been received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Jones for President 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lucy Corry for Vice President</i> <p>Motion: To accept the nominations received for President and Vice President</p> <p>Moved: <i>Lauraine Jacobs</i> Seconded: <i>Pip</i></p> <p>Carried by all</p> <p>Abstentions: <i>Student, Associate, Corporate members present</i></p> <p><i>Michelle introduced herself to those present at the AGM. Michelle is a Marketing Consultant by trade and has had a food blog for the past 4years. Michelle mentioned that presently she is 14 days away from graduating with a Master of Gastronomic Tourism. Michelle is really excited to be part of Food Writers and working with an awesome committee, a fabulous event management team and is excited about the future and to continue the great work that's been going on for the last few years. Michelle will look at broadening the traditional food writer to be much more encompassing of all food communicators.</i></p>	
8.	<p>General Business:</p> <p>Vanessa spoke on behalf of the Executive Committee and thanked Niki Bezzant who has been amazing and is truly committed to Food Writers. Niki is always calm and collected. She is a clear champion of all in Food Media, in her calm way has encouraged many people to join the food writers collective.</p> <p>Niki has made a hugely positive difference, and has really engaged the general public about Food Writers NZ. Nicki is a true collaborator. She has pushed the boundaries in a beautiful way. A massive thanks to Niki and all her work.</p> <p>Kathy Paterson presented Niki with a gift for her work carried out as President of Food Writers NZ for the past two years.</p> <p>Niki then went on to present the Life Membership awards, which is to recognise and honour two important women. The contributions of these woman who have been and still are very instrumental to NZ Guild of Food Writers / Food Writers NZ.</p> <p>Niki spoke about Pip Duncan:</p> <p><i>Pip Duncan was a member of the original steering committee that was set up in 1987 to get the Guild of FW started. Served as President from 1998-2000.</i></p> <p><i>Pip is a Graduate in Food Science from University of Otago. She carried out post graduate studies in Nutrition and Dietetics to become a registered Dietitian.</i></p> <p><i>On her OE worked at St Marys Hospital Paddington and did advanced courses at The London School of Cordon Blue and at Leith's School of Food and Wine, London.</i></p>	

In her career Pip has worked concurrently with public health and the food industry to successfully combine core population health values with food industry initiatives without compromise. She has worked for Auckland Regional Public Health and the Heart Foundation, as well as in the food Industry including New Zealand Pork and vegetables.co.nz.

Pip is one of those people who seems to be involved in sooo many things. She has run evidence based, peer reviewed campaigns for all sectors from Early childhood education to aged care and involving related organisations.

In the last 2 years she has had lead roles in the vegetables.co.nz and Heart Foundation's Cooking Curriculum project, and the Health Promotion Agency, Heart Foundation and vegetables.co.nz Easy Meals with vegetables recipe cards and videos for people with limited time, budget and equipment.

She is the author of 16 Books on Food, Food Safety and Nutrition. Two of which Professional Food Service and Safe Food have been used at Text in Australian and New Zealand Universities. The fourth edition of Safe Food is due for publication in November.

Pip spoke to those members present at the AGM, and thanked Niki and the committee for the accolade, Pip spoke about the steering committee that she was part of which was the start of the NZ Guild of Food Writers.

Pip noted how proud that 30years later NZGFW is still a strong group. Pip thanked the support of the many corporate members, and in particular vegetables.co.nz for their past and present support.

Niki spoke about Lauraine Jacobs:

I doubt Lauraine Jacobs needs much introduction to most of you; but perhaps you may not know all of the things she has achieved over the years.

Lauraine has been a member of the Guild since 1989. She served as President from 2009 to 2011, and has given her time to the organisation across the board in many ways during the past 29 years.

Lauraine trained at the London Cordon Bleu School she has been writing on all matters culinary since the late 80s, when she started as food editor of Fashion Quarterly. She was food editor for Cuisine magazine until 2009. She is the author and editor of nine cookbooks and one travel book.

She was President of International Association of Culinary Professionals in 2002. She was a member of the 2005/2006 New Zealand Government-appointed Food & Beverage Taskforce, and has also served as a food and wine ambassador for New Zealand's Trade & Enterprise initiative in North America.

	<p><i>Lauraine has been honoured for her work on many fronts, including two Gold Ladles at the World Food Media Awards. She was awarded a MNZM in the Queens Birthday Honours List in 2009 for services to the food industry.</i></p> <p><i>Lauraine is a generous supporter and champion of the New Zealand culinary scene, especially small artisan producers, regional specialty foods and farmers markets throughout the country. She highlights these each week in her food column in the NZ Listener. She's also a generous champion of other food writers.</i></p> <p><i>A thing I really admire about Lauraine is that she embraces change and the new. She's an enthusiastic user of social media and she has just published her latest beautiful book, Always Delicious.</i></p> <p><i>I remember when I first met Lauraine, which was when I just started as a food writer and my job was to start and edit the Cuisine website. Meetings with all the recipe writers - make sure they were OK to have their recipes published on the website. While some writers were very wary of what was, then, quite new technology, Lauraine was enthusiastic supporter - she had the vision to see the power this new medium could have.</i></p> <p><i>Lauraine Jacobs member of the Guild since 1989</i></p> <p>Lauraine spoke to those present at the AGM.</p> <p>Lauraine thanked Niki for her words, and noted that she was very honoured to accept the award and life membership. To be recognised by your peers is probably the best award of all.</p> <p>Lauraine urged members not to fear being outspoken, unless we speak up as Food Writers, NZ food could be really threatened. Get the good messages out there, recognise the good work people are doing and to write about it and be celebrating this.</p> <p>Lauraine thanked Jan Bilton for getting her involved in the NZ Guild of Food Writers over 29 years ago.</p> <p>Lauraine thanked everyone very much.</p>	
9.	<p>Motion: To close the Annual General Meeting for 2018 for the NZ Guild of Food Writers at 10.43am</p> <p>Moved: Niki Seconded: Vanessa</p> <p>Carried: All</p> <p>Close of meeting: 10.43am</p> <p>Abstentions: Student, Associate, Corporate members present</p>	



President's Report, 4 November 2017

Crown Hotel, Napier

Presented by Niki Bezzant on behalf of NZ Guild of Food Writers

It has been a year of change for Foodwriters NZ, just as it has for the rest of the world!

As our business and media environment continues to rapidly evolve, the role of food writer also continues to change. For most professional members, writing now comprises only one aspect of what we do; we are more accurately described as content creators since we create content both written and visual across multiple media.

This change has been reflected in a change in our membership this year. I'm very pleased to see new, young members joining us; they're increasingly coming from new media rather than traditional media backgrounds. We have had a few retirements from older members, and our corporate membership has declined. This reflects, perhaps, corporates' increasing use of wider platforms in which to engage customers and lesser interest in sponsorship.

We have sadly lost a notable member this year with the passing of our first President, the great Tui Flower.

It has been a busy and successful year for events. Our May Day market was as buzzy and fun as ever; our mid-winter dinner at Harbourside was a sellout and our Round Table breakfasts have been a fun way to get together casually. We've been included in several events with like-minded organisations such as Travcom and Vanessa Baxter's Foodie Networking nights; I think collaboration with other groups is an important aspect of expanding what we can offer members in the future. We have more such collaboration planned for the next year including working with the Restaurant Association.

This year saw the start of what I hope will continue to be a very powerful way for us to collaborate and engage with each other: our members-only closed Facebook group. If you have not joined, I encourage you to do so. It has already proved a hugely valuable forum for discussion and debate, and it's something we can use every day for support, wherever we are.

Another valuable resource for members is the Digest e-newsletter. Under the editorship of Sarah Wall this has gone from strength to strength. If you're in the habit of scrolling past it in your inbox, I encourage you to have a read.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and support of the Executive, who all offer their time and energy voluntarily for Foodwriters NZ. I'd particularly like to acknowledge Kathy Paterson and her Events committee, who have been instrumental in making Conference such an exciting programme this year.

In the year ahead we have more challenges and excitement. The Executive has been actively engaged in encouraging new membership and we will continue to do this. We will be looking at a wide programme of relevant events next year. We will be re-developing an Awards scheme that's more relevant to the entire membership, and we want to develop resources for members such as pricing guides for jobs. We will continue to encourage members outside of Auckland to use the templates and funding we've made available to hold their own events.

Lastly I'd like to thank you, our membership, for your support. We are only as strong as our members and we have a core group of hugely engaged and generous people in our ranks. To those of you who haven't engaged with us recently, I encourage you to get involved. As with all groups like this, you get out as much as you put in.

Niki Bezzant

President

Food Writers New Zealand (NZGFW)



Treasurer's Report, 4 November 2017

Crown Hotel, Napier

Presented by Andrea Bidois on behalf of NZ Guild of Food Writers

This year the Executive Committee's financial objectives are to break even on all events and live within our means. Our revenue from membership at just over \$20,000 and other revenue generated through sponsorship and income from Guild events is around \$30,000. Our operating expenses total just over \$58,000 providing us with a financial deficit of \$8,000. This deficit is offset by \$11,343 of Current Liabilities of income in advance (from 2017/2018 conference fees, and sponsorship). Our Total Current Assets are \$48,766 which is a \$5,373 increase from 2016 year end.

Events are a key part of the Guild's on-going activities. The annual Market Day and the Mid-winter Debate was financially successful providing a surplus of \$3,200. Overall the functions budget provided a surplus of \$2,600.

The Executive Committee would like to acknowledge Rachel. The NZ Guild of Food Writers would not be able to operate at the level it does without financial investment in administration and accounts support. Chasing bad debts (unpaid fees) is an ongoing challenge and a time waster for Rachel and the Executive Committee. We have written off \$1600 of bad debt this year.

Financial planning and budgeting remain a key area of focus for the Guild as we endeavor to make our activities more relevant to all our members.

Andrea Bodois

Treasurer

Food Writers New Zealand (NZGFW)