



Food Writers New Zealand - Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of Food Writers New Zealand held at Zealong Estate, 495 Gordonton Road, Hamilton at 12.00pm on Friday 18 October 2019

Meeting Called By: Michelle Jones - President

Present:

Amber Bremner, Andrea Bidois, Annalese Webber, Asher Regan, Ashia Ismail-Singer
Barbara Nielsen, Catherine Milford, Claire Owen, Eden Martin, Emma Baldwin, Felicity O'Driscoll
Fiona Hanlon, Fiona Hugues, Ginny Grant, Gus Tissink, Helen Jackson, Jan Bilton, Jennifer Collinson
Kate Underwood, Kathie Bartley, Kathy Paterson, Lauraine Jacobs, Leni Maiai, Lily Montana,
Linda Conning, Lynda Hallinan, Maria Middlestead, Mark Collins, Mark Fort, Melissa Koh,
Michelle Jones, Niki Bezzant, Nicola Fraher, Oliva Deadman, Ophelia Buckleton, Pip Duncan
Regina Wypych, Sarah Hanrahan, Sue Story, Vicki Ravlich-Horan, Vikki-Lee Goode, Alice Neville,
Claire Murdoch, Sarah Meikle

Apologies:

Angela Maynard, Julie North, Robyn Martin, Jan Bennett, Nicola Galloway, Gemma Carole, Chris Hutton, Natasha McAller, Catherine Bell, Jill Brewis, Allyson Gofton, Nalini Baruch, Lynette Ferguson, Emma Galloway, Sue McLeary, Nicola McConnell, Gail Todd, Sophie Gray, Lucy Corry, Margaret Brooker, Vanessa Baxter, Tracey Sunderland

Proxy Forms Received:

Nicola Galloway (proxy Michelle Jones)
Robyn Martin (proxy Michelle Jones)
Sue McLeary (proxy Niki Bezzant)
Emma Galloway (proxy Vicki Ravlich-Horan)
Lucy Corry (proxy Michelle Jones)
Nicola McConnell (proxy Kathie Bartley)
Margaret Brooker (proxy Kathy Paterson)
Vanessa Baxter (proxy Niki Bezzant)
Tracey Sunderland (Ashia Ismail-Singer)

Minutes Taken By: Rachel Nui

<p>5.</p>	<p>TREASURERS REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31July2019:</p> <p><i>The treasurer's report was circulated to members prior to the AGM</i></p> <p>Financial reports for 2019 were circulated to 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>Andrea stressed to those present at the AGM that as a member it is important the think about what you can do as an active member for your Food Writers Community.</p> <p><i>Motion: To accept the treasurer's report and the End of Year Financial Report for 2019.</i></p> <p><i>Moved:</i> Andrea <i>Seconded:</i> Mark Collins</p> <p><i>Carried by all</i></p> <p><i>Abstentions:</i> Student, Associate, Corporate members present</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Election of Officers</p> <p>Michelle advised members present that Greig Buckley had previously resigned from the Executive Committee and that Mark Collins, Andrea Bidois and Shona Dey would stand down from the Executive Committee after this term.</p> <p>For the next term several positions for Executive Committee are vacant.</p> <p>Nominations have been received as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asher Regan • Nicola Fraher • Nicola McConnell <p><i>Motion: To accept the nominations received for Executive Committee Members as stated</i></p> <p><i>Moved:</i> Michelle <i>Seconded:</i> Jenny Yee Collinson</p> <p><i>Carried by all</i></p> <p><i>Abstentions:</i> Student, Associate, Corporate members present</p>	

<p>8.</p>	<p>General Business:</p> <p>Helen Jackson raised a question with regards to the survey results from The Foodies Awards and asked if this will be given out to members? Michelle advised that results will be brought to the November Executive Meeting to discuss and then this information will be shared with the FWNZ membership. The idea of the survey was to get a really quick snap shot only. There is also email feedback and phone calls received from members that will also be collated.</p> <p>Kathy Paterson suggested that there be an open discussion on how much the Awards cost to put on this year. Michelle advised that a complete breakdown could not be given now, however based on budget v. actual FWNZ spent \$3,200.00 more than anticipated. Previous years with the Culinary Quill Awards the amount spent was approximately \$30K which Michelle can now understand how this figure was so high due to all the costs involved with setting up The Foodies Media Awards. The Executive Committee agreed to pay a Project Manager for The Foodies which was Kate Underwood. Michelle advised members that as President Michelle had given up a significant number of hours over the three months for The Foodies which was all volunteered hours.</p> <p>A lot of the time and costs spent was on the initial set up for The Foodies, which should now mean that the next time the awards goes ahead all the communications and platforms are already in place. A lot of the leg work now has already been done so costs going forward should not be as high.</p> <p>Lauraine Jacobs advised members that as a judge she noticed that the best work from all our membership was not entered. Lauraine would like to see much more engagement from the Food Writers membership. Michelle agreed with this and would love to see more work entered.</p> <p>Andrea Bidois advised FWNZ could really only afford to run The Foodies Awards very two years.</p> <p>Jenny Yee Collinson question - Is 'The Foodies' giving us (FWNZ) the best return for our investment? There are some members that didn't enter for specific reasons.</p> <p>Andrea commented that FWNZ is not a profit making organization.</p> <p>Lauraine Jacobs also added that that all events should be self-supporting.</p> <p>Fiona Hugues advised members that there are quite a few people (non-members) that have watched The Foodies and will considered joining because of this event.</p>	

9.	<p>Motion: To close the Annual General Meeting for 2019 for the NZ Guild of Food Writers at 1.29pm</p> <p>Moved: Michelle Seconded: Andrea Bidios</p> <p>Carried: All</p> <p>Close of meeting: 1.30pm</p> <p>Abstentions: <i>Student, Associate, Corporate members present</i></p>	
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President's Report 2019

18 October 2019

Zealong Estate, Gordonton, Waikato

There is one thing which is constant in the world we live in, and that is change. Embracing change can be challenging, rewarding and at times – let's be honest – incredibly frustrating, but to thrive as an organisation we need to be change resilient.

Food Writers New Zealand Executive Committee recognises the need to evolve and when we met in January we agreed to focus on four key areas during 2019:

- Professional development
- Regional engagement
- Succession planning
- Refreshing our food media awards.

We acknowledged that delivering professional development opportunities would be challenging especially when members are at various stages in their careers, and that it would take considerable effort to organise. Our video content workshop (run by one of our members) was a sell-out; we're endeavouring to include relevant content in Digest and we hope you enjoy the workshops at Conference. And yes, there's definitely room for more in the future.

It's been fantastic to see Wellington members getting together for regular round-table lunches this year, and a small group caught up for lunch during June in Hawke's Bay too. We

encourage members in the regions to take the initiative to organise a local round-table event; you will be pleasantly surprised with the outcome.

Succession planning has been on the agenda at every single executive committee meeting this year, with a number of committee members standing down: Greig Buckley, Mark Collins, Shona Dey and Andrea Bidois. I would like to thank them all for their contributions and make special mention of Andrea. As our Treasurer for the past five years Andrea has overseen the financials to ensure we are well set up for the future. It's important that the representatives on the Executive Committee rotate; allowing other members the opportunity to be actively involved and that new people aspire to take on the Vice President and / or President roles in the future. There is a need for a fresh perspective and as you will see from the nominations – regional participation – with nominations from Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts and hard work of everyone (Awards committee, judges, and sponsors) involved in the launch of The Foodies – NZ Food Media Awards. Without member entries there would be no Awards so thank you for taking the time to submit your entries and we look forward to seeing even more entries next time.

The number of events we held in the past year more than doubled, with Food Writers NZ working in partnership to bring different types of events to life: a sold-out (in under 8 hours), lunch at Clooney, The Future of Food – Red Meat Issue (Beef + Lamb), mid-winter dinner at Ampersand; and not forgetting the Allpress Coffee workshop and a sourdough workshop at Daily Bread. May Market Day and Conference 2018 at Villa Maria with Peter Gordon as our guest speaker, continue to be highlights in our calendar and wouldn't be possible without the hard work of Kathy Paterson, Pip Duncan and their volunteers.

It is worth mentioning that sponsorship dollars are getting harder and harder to secure so we broadened our reach (including pitching to third parties) and were successful in securing Meadow Mushrooms as our sole sponsor for Awards.

The breadth of content and increasing number of contributors to Digest, our bi-monthly e-newsletter ensures a fabulous read each issue, thanks to our editors Alexia Santamaria and Lucy Corry. Contributions are welcome or if you have an idea for something you would like to see included, get in touch with the editors.

Food Writers NZ would not exist without a core group of volunteers: Executive Committee; Events Committee and Awards Committee; and people who get called upon on an adhoc basis, for example to facilitate at conference or work on PR, who all volunteer their time and expertise to ensure the future success of Food Writers NZ. Thanks also to Rachel Nui for

keeping us on track by managing the accounts, meetings and admin for events and so much more.

Lastly please remember that your active participation in our organisation is vital. If everyone makes an effort to interact and support our membership (individuals and corporate), wherever you live in New Zealand – whether that is in the Facebook group, face-to-face, online or at events – Food Writers NZ will continue to thrive.

The more you engage the more get out of your membership.

Michelle Jones
President Food Writers New Zealand (NZGFW)

Treasurers Report

18 October 2019

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This year the Executive Committee's financial objectives are to make a small profit on all events and streamline the processes around events. Our revenue from membership at just over \$30,000 and other revenue generated through sponsorship and income from NZ Food Writers events is around \$36,000. Our operating expenses total just over \$53,000 providing us with a financial surplus of \$13,000. Our Total Current Assets are \$63,128 which is a \$13,087 increase from 2018-year end. This is a good result.

Financial planning and growing our membership remain a key area of focus for the NZ Food Writers Executive Committee as we endeavor to navigate the ever-changing face of food writing and communication. Being relevant to our members is fundamental to our existence.

Events are a key part of the NZ Food Writers on-going activities. The annual Market Day Function continues to be financially successful providing a surplus of \$2,021, while the remaining events break even and or make a small profit.

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.

Andrea Bidois
Treasurer Food Writers New Zealand (NZGFW)