



Treasurer's Report

Food Writers New Zealand AGM 2020

This year has been unprecedented for the world and of course for our organisation.

This is reflected in our finances, with less income from events and memberships.

We also spent more. In 2020, in light of the fact we couldn't plan any in-person events (including May Market Day and a mid-winter event), and due to lockdown, we made the call to spend funds on member communication and increased the frequency of Digest to monthly. We also waived membership renewal fees for small corporates (eight members), with a view to supporting our small food-related businesses. There were also some expenses associated with our charity cookbook. Expenses for The Foodies – NZ Food Media Awards also fall into this financial year; we invested \$10,000 in the awards which ran over budget by just over \$3,000 due to some one-off set up costs and less than anticipated number of entries.

Cumulatively, this has resulted in a deficit for the 2020 financial year.

Despite this, we remain in sound financial shape. How the next year plays out is of course unknown, but should we be able to return to at least some of our regular activities, we should be able to keep things steady. It has been our practice in recent years to aim to break even on events, if not to make a small profit. Membership revenue – especially from corporates – will remain a challenge.

With the major shifts in our media and business landscapes, change is needed for all organisations, including ours. If the incoming executive, with the support of members, crucially, is able to adapt and evolve the organisation to attract new members and retain existing ones, Food Writers NZ's future will be bright, and we should be optimistic about that.

I'd like to suggest there's an opportunity to look at spending some of our money differently in future, with a view to supporting members in different ways. Perhaps there's scope for a contestable fund for writing projects; scholarships for up-and-coming practitioners; grants for members facing hardship. These and other possibilities should be open for discussion.

Niki Bezzant
Food Writers New Zealand Treasurer (NZGFW)