



# BREWERS GUILD OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

## Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Brewers Guild of New Zealand Incorporated

Held at 4:00pm on 8 November 2023 at Sprig + Fern, Thorndon, Wellington and via Zoom.

### 1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Chairman Brian Watson, formally opened the meeting at 4:03pm confirming that the meeting was being held in person and via Zoom. Chairman, Brian Watson welcomed fellow board members and attendees.

### 2. Confirmation of Notice

Melanie Kees confirmed that notice of the Annual General Meeting had been circulated by email, announced on the Brewers Guild Website and shared via the newsletter and facebook to members – a formal note advising of the AGM date was announced to members on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### 3. Meeting Attendance

Melanie Kees confirmed that quorum for the meeting had been achieved through attendance. A list of meeting attendees and proxies is in **Appendix A** to these minutes.

Chair Brian Watson announced that they had receive apologies from:

Ralp Bungard, Three Boys Brewery

David Nicholls, DNA Brewing

### 4. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The meeting considered the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Brewers Guild which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

MOTION

*'That the Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Brewers Guild of New Zealand held on 18 October 2022 be accepted as true and correct.'*

Motion: Tracy Banner, Sprig + Fern Brewing Co  
Seconded: Sebastian Burke, Burkes Brewing Co  
APPROVED

## **5. Chairman's Report**

On behalf of past Chair, Joseph Wood, Executive Director, Melanie Kees provided an overview of the strategic activities of the Guild during the 2022/23 Financial year.

The Chairman's report talked about ups and downs the brewing industry had faced over the year. Joseph reminded us of the positives including running the judging and the awards in what was still a rather volatile period. The series of seven awards events being run simultaneously across the country was a definite highlight and while we were not all together the feeling of camaraderie across the events and for those at home was one of the best awards nights, he had ever been a part of.

The low's included including the largest ever increase in excise tax, followed by the Co2 crisis. Both were major events for the industry and had a massive impact on all levels of membership. Joseph, also noted the learning opportunities these challenges have offered the industry, and on a personal note he said that in his business they have made positive changes to how they operate, how they communicate and how they work as a team, all of which have had a positive impact.

He also reminded the membership that as an industry our competitors are our friends. In times of crisis, we work together, we have strength in numbers, and we come together to share information and advice.

## **6. Executive Directors Report**

Melanie Kees read out the executive Director Report for 2022/23.

The Guild has faced many challenges over the year, however, there have also been a number of wins for the industry which we should all be very proud of. Co2, excise, and several regulatory activities have kept the executive busy writing submission and attending meetings to represent our members on a number of matters.

A successful judging event and subsequent awards events added some positives to the year. We had the largest ever number of applications for stewards and judges and the number of entries stayed over 800.

Media coverage of our industry has increased, and we are no longer 'flying under the radar' which can only bring some benefits to the industry and our members. The deferral of the Container Return Scheme, and part two of the alcohol reform were both wins for the year, whether they return to the table is yet to be seen.

The excise tax increase and Co2 crisis were both major events that caused a lot of work, worry and opportunities to pivot and operate in a new way. Our members have showed resilience, camaraderie, and creativity during what were unprecedented times.

The board developed a new 3-year strategy to give direction for the Guild in the coming years. This has helped focus our efforts to ensure we continue to represent our diverse and broad membership to the best of our ability while continuing to add value to members.

We welcomed new Administration & Membership Co-ordinator, Jo Buckland-Stevens to the Guild team.

All in all, it was a year of ups and downs, lots of surprises and a lot of learnings. We continue to work hard for the industry, we celebrate the wins, and we support each other. The Guild and its members should feel very proud of what has been collectively achieved over the year.

## **7. Financial Report**

Chairman, Brian Watson spoke to the financial statements.

Mr Watson confirmed that the financial reports had been circulated prior to the Annual General meeting. The Guild went into the 2022 year with a goal to have more of an internal focus. We needed to become more lean and agile; change to an internal focus to rebuild our community and our reserves and make up for a few years of disruption.

He referred to other items to note in the financial report which were:

- Cutting the back-end mapping service for the NZ Ale Trail. Which delivered significant savings – reducing the cost from \$32k down to \$3k.
- Marketing costs reduced slightly; however, our media coverage and general exposure of the industry and our members was greater – we're no longer flying under the radar.
- Member benefit expense increased slightly as we made the effort to re-engage and offer new benefits to members.
- We welcomed improved income from and added in some new income streams including selling website takeovers for the NZAT.
- We activated the benevolent fund to support members Zeelandt brewery following devastating Cyclone Gabrielle.
- We show a healthy amount of cash in the bank considering we the amount of work we have delivered on the back of some unsettled times.
- There were no significant amounts in accounts receivable and we continued to pay our bills on time – in advance in some cases.
- The largest expense are contractors – and that was due to more hours for the administration and events role, and a change of staffing.
- It is also worth noting that the competition/awards continue to be worthwhile – with income of \$126,000 and costs of \$96.5k we improved our profit from the previous year.

Mr Watson asked if there were any further questions around the EOY Financials, of which there were none.

#### MOTION

*'That the Financial Statements for the Brewers Guild of New Zealand for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 be accepted as true and correct.'*

Motion: Jason Ray, Volstead Brewing Co  
Seconded: Mark Limber, Two thumb Brewing  
APPROVED

### **8. Election of Board**

Mr Watson confirmed that for this year the board were looking to replace 6 members, 5 of whom had reached the maximum term the rules allow.

He thanked those board members who were standing down - Keith Riley, Jason Bathgate, Paul Finney, Sebastian Burke and Joseph Wood. He also made special mention of past Chair, Joseph Wood, congratulating him and his board in the good position that the Guild is currently in.

Moving onto the elections, Mr Watson noted how pleasing it was to see nominees from across the membership base, along with Jason Ray who was re-standing for a second two-year term. He also confirmed that with 6 spaces to fill on the board, and just 5 nominations we do not need to go to a vote, and we can welcome all 5 of our new board members - Alyssa Hodgson, Michael Oosthuizen, Shane Morley and Heidi Crockett and welcome back to Jason Ray.

Confirming the elected members to the board are:

Alyssa Hodgson, Michael Oosthuizen, Shane Morley, Heidi Crockett and Jason Ray.

Mr Watson also confirmed that as per the guild constitution, rule 4.3 If, in the case that there are no new nominations, or not enough to create a new board a retiring board member can be reappointed by the board, for one more term if required to make up board numbers.

We are pleased that Sebastian Burke has agreed to stay on the board for one more term.

#### MOTION

*'That the election results are accepted, and the new Directors for the Brewers Guild of New Zealand board are accepted'.*

Motion: Peter Fenton, Garage Project  
Seconded: Shannon Thorpe, Fortune Favours  
APPROVED

Mr Watson welcomed the new members to the board.

## **9. General Business & Close of Meeting**

Mr Watson advised the members that the Guild was in the process of reviewing and updating the Guild Constitution to meet the new requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. The updated rules will be shared with the membership for review and he asked that if any members would like to see changes or have suggestions to make they are to let the executive director know. The intention is to present a finalised constitution for adoption by the membership at the 2024 AGM.

Mr Watson concluded the meeting by sharing the Guild strategy document with the attendees and gave them a brief overview of the strategy going forward, with an opportunity to ask any questions.

Mr Watson asked the attendees if there was any other business, which there was not, therefore the meeting was called closed at 4.21pm.

## APPENDIX A – MEETING ATTENDANCE

<b>BREWERY MEMBER</b>		
8 Wired Brewing	Soren	Eriksen
Altitude Brewing	Eddie	Gapper
Burkes Brewing Co	Sebastian	Burke
Colab Brewing	Heidi	Crockett
DB Breweries	Michael	Oosthuizen
Deep Creek Brewing	Hamish	Ward
Eddyline Brewery	Adam	Tristram
Emporium Brewing	Paul	Finney
Eruption Brewing	Scotty	Calvert
Fortune Favours	Shannon	Thorpe
Fortune Favours	Aizak	Salanoa
Garage Project	Peter	Fenton
Good George	Brian	Watson
Heyday	Hannah	Blackwood
Isthmus Brewing	Caroline	Muller-Ward
Liberty Brewing Co	Joseph	Wood
Lion	Alyssa	Hodgson
Lion	Keith	Riley
McLeod's Brewery	Jason	Bathgate
ParrotDog	Matt	Stevens
ParrotDog	Paul	Watson
Rhyme and Reason Brewery	Kate	McDonald
Sawmill Brewery	Mike	Sutherland
Southpaw Brewing Company	Penny	Prescott
Sprig + Fern	Tracy	Banner
Steam Brewing	Shane	Morley
Two Thumb Brewing	Dave	Dixon
Two Thumb Brewing	Mark	Limber
Volstead Brewing Co	Jason	Ray
Waitoa	Tommy	Baker
<b>CORPORATE MEMBER</b>		
Invita NZ Ltd	Dudley	Haines
Shape Energy	Neil	Beeslaar
NZ Hops	Glynn	Rowell