

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

May 2026 Newsletter

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE
JOHNSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 3 FRANKMOORE AVENUE,
JOHNSONVILLE WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7:45PM**

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year 2024/2025 held on Wednesday, 14 May 2025.
3. Matters Arising
4. Financial Report for the Year 2025/26
5. President's Report for the Year 2025/26
6. Election of Officers and Committee for the Year 2026/27:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee
7. **Notice of Motion:**

Moved by Anne Megget: "In recognition of his services to The Cellar Club Inc. as Auditor, Treasurer, President and committee for 41 years, and his ongoing support and involvement in the club since 1986 I move that Wayne Kennedy be granted Life Membership of the Cellar Club Inc."
8. Subscriptions
9. General Business

At the conclusion of the AGM, supper will be served,
accompanied by wines from the Club's cellar

Let's Look Out for Each Other

As always, please if you are feeling unwell, do not attend the evening's presentation. Thanks

Looking Back – Gold Medal Winners from NZ International Wine Show of October 2025

Able to be hosted by Wayne Kennedy, Murray Jaspers and Michael Kuus, we had 31 turn up for the event.

This was a fun evening for everyone, with some of the wines being somewhat of a surprise, taste wise for most of us.

As a reminder of what we tasted on the night:

TYPE	CATEGORY	WIN
 2025 Rapaura Springs Reserve Pinot Rose, Marlborough	Rose & Blush	Double Gold and Champion Rose Trophy
<i>A pretty metallic pink colour and strawberries in the mouth, with 13.5% alcohol this drop has a dash, 5% of Pinot Gris added.</i>		
 2025 Te Kairanga Estate Sauvignon Blanc, Martinborough	Sauvignon Blanc	Double Gold and Champion Sauvignon Blanc Trophy
<i>The grapes for this drop were picked early with the wine having 12.5% alcohol being made in stainless steel, then three months in old French Oak to give it texture.</i>		
 2025 Sileni Advocate Grand Reserve Albarino, Hawkes Bay	Other White Wine Varieties	Double Gold Medal
<i>This is from the Bridge Pa Triangle area and was a savoury drop with 13.5% alcohol. Albarino is now quite prevalent now in Hawkes Bay. This could be cellared until 2030 if you wanted.</i>		
 2025 Sugar Loaf Riesling, Marlborough	Riesling	Double Gold and Champion Riesling Trophy
<i>The vintner for this wine was from the Sugar Loaf Islands and set up the vineyard in 2004. This Riesling is very young and will change with age. At the moment it was light and savoury in the mouth.</i>		
 2024 Craggy Range Martinborough Pinot Noir	Pinot Noir	Double Gold and Champion Pinot Noir Trophy
<i>This brand was a lower level in the Craggy Range range of Pinot Noirs, but was nonetheless quite luscious with blackberries and savouriness in the mouth. At 13.5% alcohol it could be cellared for up to 8 years. Enjoy this wine with roast duck, lamb or mushroom risotto.</i>		
 2023 Barossa Valley Estate Shiraz, South Australia	Commercial Red Wine	Double Gold and Champion Commercial Red Trophy
<i>A nice dark red in colour with 14% alcohol, although it has been matured in French Oak, this is for drinking now, not cellaring.</i>		
 2024 Beach House Cabernet Malbec, Hawkes Bay – 79% Cab Sauv, 16% Malbec and 5% Franc.	Cabernet Sauvignon & Predominant blends	Double Gold Medal
<i>This comes from a sustainable vineyard and can be cellared till the 2030's. Cassis, blackberry, tar, and tobacco aromas lead into a powerful, brooding and intense palate that seems to go on forever. A muscular, dark beast that would be spectacular alongside a rare Wagyu eye fillet.</i>		

Committee Musings

1. As you will see in the AGM agenda, members are being asked to consider Anne Megget's Notice of Motion proposing Wayne Kennedy be granted life membership of the club. You can view on our website the current criteria and rights associated with this, or see below.

The club currently has 55 members including five life members.

All the Club's Committee thinks Wayne meets these criteria and will be voting in favour of the Notice of Motion.

Life Membership

Criteria

Life membership is only granted in recognition of extensive, sustained service to the Club, above and beyond normal expectations. To be eligible for consideration an individual needs to have met point 1 and the majority of the remaining criteria:

- I. Exceptional Contribution of Extended Duration
 - a. Contributions significantly above and beyond the normal responsibilities of committee and leadership roles, sustained over a lengthy period (at least 10 years).
- II. Voluntary Effort
 - a. Significant voluntary time and effort, often without recognition or reward, contributing to the Club's sustainability.
- III. Legacy and Enduring Benefit
 - a. Contributions that have a lasting effect (e.g., improving systems, or shaping club direction).
- IV. Impact on the Club
 - a. Measurable or widely recognised positive impact on the Club's growth, culture, reputation, or success.
- V. Leadership and Role Modelling
 - a. Demonstrates integrity, and values aligned with the Club; acts as a mentor or positive influence on others.
- VI. Good Standing
 - a. Maintains a positive reputation within the club and broader community.

Rights

The Club Constitution states that life membership shall give the holder all rights and privileges of ordinary membership except they are exempt from paying any (annual) subscription

2. On the occasion you are approached at one of our monthly club tastings by a committee member and asked if you could please pour for that meeting, please accept this opportunity. It will mean that one or both of our regular pourers is unable to attend that meeting. This is also a great way to meet members of the club that you would otherwise not know 😊.
Thanks also to both Dinah and Carolyn for their time and attention to this task, performed with aplomb.
3. Is anyone interested in taking over the stewardship of our Club's Website? Steve is wanting to hand over this service he has been more than ably doing for the Club for the last thirteen years and now need to pass this on to someone else.

If you aren't interested but know of someone who would like to do this on a volunteer basis, we would welcome talking with you or receiving your recommendation via email.

4. Thanks again to everyone who helps with the tables and chairs at the start of our evenings and taking the same down after the meeting. Also taking the tables contents: spittoons/water jugs/cracker plates back to the kitchen.

Looking Ahead:

🍷 **June** – Margrain, Wairarapa

🍷 **July** – Mid-Winter/Mid-Year Club Dinner **TBC**

🍷 **August** – **TBC**

Wine News – **New Zealand announced as Wine Region Winner of the 2026 Azure Road Impact Awards Drinks Category** 02 Apr 2026: <https://www.nzwine.com>

New Zealand Winegrowers (NZW) is honoured to be awarded the best Wine Region for the 2026 Azure Road Impact Awards Drinks Category. Alongside this recognition, Loveblock Winery [<https://loveblockwine.com>] received the best Wine Brand in this influential US publication's inaugural awards. "This award recognises the deep commitment to sustainability by New Zealand's grape growers and wineries. Our goal is to be an industry of choice, and we are committed to protecting the places and celebrating the people that make our renowned wines". Says NZW's GM Sustainability, Dr Ed Massey.

For more than thirty years, the industry has embedded sustainable practices through Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand (SWNZ), a world-leading, data-driven programme that provides robust, industry-wide evidence of environmental and social responsibility. Over that time, SWNZ has evolved into a comprehensive, independently audited programme that now certifies 98% of New Zealand's vineyard area and approximately 90% of wine production by volume. That level of participation by both grape growers and wineries sets this programme apart as the only one of its kind around the world and their commitment to SWNZ has helped drive our reputation for producing sustainable premium wine.

Sustainability in New Zealand wine is grounded in protecting the places where wine is grown; its soils, water, biodiversity and unique regional landscapes, while responding to climate change through continuous improvement. New Zealand wines reflect the places they come from – shaped by our people and protected through our commitment to a sustainable future.

As the 2026 harvest nears completion, this award will come as welcome news to the industry.

From Tammy of Mission Estate for Members: Long lunch with Chef Laurent Loudeac

<https://www.missionestate.co.nz/blogs/news/long-lunch-with-chef-laurent-loudeac>

Join us for a fabulous wine and food-matched long lunch with Chef Laurent Loudeac at [Kanteen](#).

Chef Laurent Loudeac is known for bringing refined European technique together with the best of New Zealand's seasonal produce. With a distinctly French influence, his cooking balances elegance and generosity, layering classic flavours with a modern, relaxed approach suited to Aotearoa's vibrant food culture.

Working closely with local growers, fishermen and artisan producers, Laurent creates bespoke dining experiences that feel both elevated and deeply personal.

This beautiful lunch has been thoughtfully created in harmony with the iconic Mission Jewelstone wines, each dish designed to complement and elevate the character of the wines. The result is a series of pairings that feel seamless, expressive, and quietly indulgent - an invitation to savour, connect, and experience pure pleasure in every bite and sip.

5 courses including wine matches for \$150:

DATE: Sunday 24th May

TIME: 12pm

VENUE: Kanteen Cafe, 7 Waterloo Quay, Pipitea, Wellington

Screwcaps

With various local supermarkets now collecting aluminium tear tabs etc, the committee has decided to stop collecting screwcaps after the AGM.

If you have a supply at home, bring them to the AGM and we will get them to Anne Megget. Wayne will then liaise with her to collect all the screwcaps that she has been collecting and to turn them into a donation to Kidney Kids NZ.

Thanks to Anne for being prepared to do this, and to Sue on the door who has been receiving them.

Club Information

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