



Merri Mashers Brewing Club

President:
Justin Spicer
justin@spicer.com.au

Vice-President:
Kevin Hawley
khawley@optusnet.com.au

LETTER FROM THE PREZ

Welcome to the first edition of the Merri Mashers' Newsletter! I'm absolutely stoked to see our club up and running, we've formally incorporated, our inaugural committee is in place, and we already have more than a dozen financial members (I hope you all enjoyed the free yeast!). I've really enjoyed our meetings to date, and the venues we've been sharing them around in. I truly believe our location here in the inner Northern suburbs is perfect for a club such as ours, as this region has fast become an absolute mecca for craft beer in Australia. With breweries such as Thunder Road, Temple, Kooinda, 3 Ravens, Moon Dog, Mountain Goat and La Sirene all in the area, along with pubs such as the Gertrude, Great Northern, Alehouse Project and the Terminus, how can we go wrong?

Your committee have grand plans for the coming months, we've joined VicBrew, and will be looking to play a part in their upcoming sanctioned competitions, as well as doing more of our own. We're even looking to send a contingent along to this year's ANHC conference in Canberra in October! And I'm really looking forward to our "tainted beer" tasting session, that's coming soon, keep an eye out on the website and AHB for more info on that.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and please send through any suggestions you have for future editions to merri.mashers@gmail.com.

Cheers!
- Justin

MAY MEETING TASTING

The Merri Mashers' May 2014 meeting kicked off May 28 at Temple Brewery, East Brunswick. The Merri Mashers remain very grateful to Renata and Temple for their ongoing support for the local brewing community, thanks Temple!

The night kicked off with registrations of official members. It was decided that a reasonable annual membership fee would be \$50 for new mem-

bers, subsidised by a gift to every applicant of four packs of Mangrove Jack's Craft Series yeasts courtesy of Cryer Malt. The yeasts went fast as eager brewers took their pick from several varieties.

In total the club registered eleven members on the night. We're getting there, Merri Mashers!

Earlier in the year the club received over a kilogram of Select and Horizon hops which were distributed to potential members with the stipulation that all brewers must craft a beer using either one, or both, of the hops. These beers would be compared at a later meeting and a winner judged.

Well the date for the tasting had finally arrived and the Merri Mashers were confronted with ten proudly brewed beers by nine individual brewers, seven of which were present on the night.

After much discussion of beer recipes, styles and hop profiles the winner turned out to be Shannon Brooks with his inimitable Irish Red Ale! In the brewer's own words:

I've made this beer a couple of times. It was inspired by Bridge Rd Brewery's Celtic Ale. Both my brother in-law and I enjoy drinking these beers so I made something like it. The comp beer had a similar malt profile to the previous two with the only major changes being the hops and yeast. The beer didn't finish as low as I wanted. Was hoping for a 1.012 but wouldn't budge from 1.018. This may have resulted in a little residual sweetness? The beer is darker than other reds I have had. Maybe something to do with the Melanoiden? Oh wait that's bubbles!

Check the Merri Mashers website for exclusive publication of the full winning recipe - yum!



PALE ALE MANIA

Hey there paleface!

In the run-up to the Worthog's Brewing Comp, 'Pale Ale Mania' on August 3, the Merri Mashers are going to be holding a little pale ale session of our own. The July meeting will be officially given over to the Pale Ale, and we're going to talk, think, make, and drink pale.



If you've already got a competition brew going for the Worthog's comp, feel free to bring it along and tell us a bit about it. If you just want to learn a bit more about the style, come along and sample some of the other brews. For further reference, check out the BJCP Pale Ale guidelines, or the winning recipes for previous Worthogs Pale Ale Mania competitions.

This will also be an opportunity for us to use some of the free Mangrove Jacks craft series yeasts that have been distributed to club members. There's more yeast freebies left, so sign up at our next meeting at the Gertrude in Fitzroy to get some of your own!

In the meantime - let's get those pale ale brews crankin'!

CRYER MALT FEEDBACK

Remember those deliciously free yeasts we were given at the May meeting? Well, they come with strings attached - and the time to deliver is upon us!

Once you've brewed with the Mangrove Jack's Craft Series Yeast be sure to visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZXCRN76> and fill out the short, five-minute survey for David Cryer over at Cryer Malt in New Zealand. Try to be as detailed in your feedback as you can and you never know the Merri Mashers might get some more free goodies down the track!

STOUT EXTRAVAGANZA

Time is running out to enter your stouts into the Westgate Brewers's Stout Extravaganza, with entries closing June 28. Grab an entry form online and we'll see you at the The Local Hotel, Port Melbourne on Sunday July 6!

At least one Merri Masher will have a sneaky stout in competition, so come and cheer along!

ANHC FUN TIMES

There will be a pre-tasting during the September Merri Mashers meeting for beers being entered by members into the ANHC in October. The Merri Mashers may be able to organise free or cheap transport for your beers up to Canberra through VicBrew, so if you are thinking to enter a beverage be sure to contact the President or someone else on the committee to discuss your options.

Deliberations on organising a bus up to Canberra in October have concluded and at this stage it looks like members will have to make their own way there via plane or other means. However, if members book similar plane tickets then they may be able to share taxis to their accommodation, so network early and network often!

CLUB RESOURCES

Club Website:

<http://www.merrimashers.org>

Blog:

<http://www.merrimashers.org/blog/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/merri.mashers>

Aussie Home Brewer:

<http://aussiehomebrewer.com/forum/101-the-merri-mashers/>