

Melbourne Brewers Beerfest 2026 Competition Results

28/02/2026



Champion Brewer (34 Participating Brewers)

Place	Brewer	1st	2nd	3rd	Score	Club
1st	Jo Skuse	2	0	0	6	THursty Brewers
2nd	John Keske	2	0	0	6	Melbourne Brewers
3rd	Craig Bates	0	2	1	5	Melbourne Brewers



Club of Show

The club with the highest number of placing points

Best Club (9 Participating Clubs)

Place	Club	1st	2nd	3rd	Score
1st	Melbourne Brewers	2	2	3	13
2nd	Merri Mashers	2	1	0	8
3rd	THursty Brewers	2	0	0	6

Best Novice Brewer

Awarded to the highest placed brewer who has not placed before in any other VICBrew recognised competition.

Andries Ellis



Sponsors

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1. AMERICAN ALE (Sponsored by Beerco): 18 entries

Judges: Andrew Bulman, Martin Mioduszewski, Paul Kerwin, Andrea Buckwell, Alex Garner, Anthony Van Buiten

Place	Entrant	Style	Club	Score
1	Sharif Slamet	American Pale Ale	Merri Mashers	109
2	Craig Bates	American Brown Ale	Melbourne Brewers	107
3	Hayden Henderson	American Pale Ale	Melbourne Brewers	107
4	Michael Bowron	American Amber Ale	Westgate Brewers	106
5	Eric Beck	American Pale Ale	Merri Mashers	100
6	Dan Horridge	American Strong Ale	Merri Mashers	98
7	Matt Zuerrer	American Pale Ale	Merri Mashers	98
8	Geoff Donnellon	American Pale Ale		97
9	Jeremy Skuse	American Pale Ale	Thursty Brewers	96
10	John Keske	American Brown Ale	Melbourne Brewers	95
11	Cameron Eldridge	American Pale Ale	Merri Mashers	95
12	Ian Bennett	American Brown Ale	Melbourne Brewers	93
13	Richard Bailey	American Amber Ale	Melbourne Brewers	93
14	Mark Chapman	American Pale Ale	Yarra Valley Brewers	90
15	Cameron Eldridge	American Strong Ale	Merri Mashers	87
16	Hayden Henderson	American Strong Ale	Melbourne Brewers	85
17	Richard Bailey	American Pale Ale	Melbourne Brewers	78
18	Dan Horridge	American Pale Ale	Merri Mashers	74

2. BRITISH ALE (Sponsored by Bintani): 17 entries

Judges: Andrew Bulman, Paul Kerwin, Angus Robertson, Craig Bates, Dan Walker

Place	Entrant	Style	Club	Score
1	Jo Skuse	Wee Heavy	THursty Brewers	118
2	John Killmister	Scottish Heavy	Bayside Brewers Club	117
3	Michael Bowron	British Strong Ale	Westgate Brewers	115
4	Jason Ayres	Dark Mild	Bayside Brewers	114
5	Andries Ellis	Ordinary Bitter		113
6	Michael Bowron	Dark Mild	Westgate Brewers	113
7	Hayden Henderson	Ordinary Bitter	Melbourne Brewers	112
8	Jo Skuse	Scottish Export	THursty Brewers	106
9	Dan Horridge	Best Bitter	Merri Mashers	105
10	David Barkla	Scottish Heavy	Melbourne Brewers	104.5
11	Mark Hibberd	Strong Bitter	Bayside Brewers	104
12	David Barkla	Dark Mild	Melbourne Brewers	104
13	Christopher Grant	Scottish Light		100
14	Michael Bowron	Strong Bitter	Westgate Brewers	98
15	Jeremy Skuse	Strong Bitter	Thursty Brewers	95
16	Jason Ayres	Strong Bitter	Bayside Brewers	92
17	Christopher Grant	Wee Heavy		57

3. BELGIAN ALE (Sponsored by Bintani): 10 entries

Judges: Matt Zuerrer, Alex Garner, Holly Brick

Place	Entrant	Style	Club	Score
1	John Keske	Belgian Dubbel	Melbourne Brewers	122
2	Craig Bates	Belgian Dark Strong Ale	Melbourne Brewers	117
3	Andries Ellis	Belgian Tripel		116
4	Mark Chapman	Belgian Single	Yarra Valley Brewers	112
5	Martin Mioduszewski	Belgian Dubbel		104
6	Richard Bailey	Belgian Dubbel	Melbourne Brewers	91
7	Christopher Grant	Belgian Dark Strong Ale		87
8	Paul Kerwin	Belgian Single	Melbourne Brewers	84
9	Ian Bennett	Belgian Dark Strong Ale	Melbourne Brewers	83
10	Dan Horridge	Belgian Dubbel	Merri Mashers	77

4. SOUR & WILD ALE (Sponsored by Boatrockers): 19 entries

Judges: Michael Guenzel, Matt Zuerrer, Christopher Holmes, Angus Robertson, Craig Bates, Ethan Ward

Place	Entrant	Style	Club	Score
1	Michael Horn	Fruit Lambic	Merri Mashers	118
2	Dan Horridge	Flanders Red Ale	Merri Mashers	116
3	Hayden Henderson	Brett Beer	Melbourne Brewers	115
4	Aaron Jenkins	Oud Bruin	Macedon Ranges Brew Club	114
5	Sean Dawson	Brett Beer	Merri Mashers	114
6	Eric Beck	Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer	Merri Mashers	110.5
7	Paul Chapman	Flanders Red Ale	Macedon Ranges Brew Club	108
8	Ian Bennett	Wild Specialty Beer	Melbourne Brewers	106
9	Hayden Henderson	Gueuze	Melbourne Brewers	106
10	Eric Beck	Wild Specialty Beer	Merri Mashers	102
11	Jo Skuse	Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer	THursty Brewers	101
12	Aaron Jenkins	Flanders Red Ale	Macedon Ranges Brew Club	100
13	Brett Tyrrell	Fruit Lambic	Bayside Brewers Club	100
14	Cameron Eldridge	Fruit Lambic	Merri Mashers	100
15	Michael Horn	Wild Specialty Beer	Merri Mashers	98
16	Sean Dawson	Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer	Merri Mashers	97
17	Cameron Eldridge	Lambic	Merri Mashers	96
18	Jo Skuse	Brett Beer	THursty Brewers	95
19	Dan Horridge	Mixed Fermentation Sour Beer	Merri Mashers	94

5. FRUIT & SPICE BEER (Sponsored by Lallemand): 11 entries

Judges: Cameron Eldridge, Hayden Henderson, Martin Mioduszewski

Place	Entrant	Style	Club	Score
1	John Keske	Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer	Melbourne Brewers	113
2	Darren Lammertse	Fruit Beer		113
3	Craig Bates	Fruit and Spice Beer	Melbourne Brewers	111
4	Craig Bates	Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer	Melbourne Brewers	96
5	Dan Horridge	Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer	Merri Mashers	96
6	Ian Bennett	Fruit Beer	Melbourne Brewers	94
7	Ian Bennett	Winter Seasonal Beer	Melbourne Brewers	91
8	Sharif Slamet	Spice, Herb, or Vegetable Beer	Merri Mashers	89
9	David Harrison	Fruit Beer		87
10	Eric Beck	Fruit Beer	Merri Mashers	82
11	Michael Horn	Specialty Spice Beer	Merri Mashers	81

6. SMOKED & WOOD AGED BEER (Sponsored by Bintani): 9 entries

Judges: Michael Guenzel, Christopher Holmes, Ethan Ward

Place	Entrant	Style	Club	Score
1	Jo Skuse	Classic Style Smoked Beer	THursty Brewers	122.5
2	Matthew O'Halloran	Classic Style Smoked Beer		120
3	Andries Ellis	Specialty Smoked Beer		114
4	Jason Ayres	Classic Style Smoked Beer	Bayside Brewers	92
5	Hayden Henderson	Classic Style Smoked Beer	Melbourne Brewers	88
6	Jeremy Skuse	Specialty Wood-Aged Beer	Thursty Brewers	85
7	Cameron Eldridge	Specialty Wood-Aged Beer	Merri Mashers	74
8	Eric Beck	Classic Style Smoked Beer	Merri Mashers	32

Table 7: Aussie (12 entries)

Place	Brewer	Entry Name	Club
1st	David Harrison	Bunnings Pale Ale	
2nd	Geoff Donnellon	Geoffs Preimum Larger	
3rd	Troy Poulter	Aussie Aussie Aussie	Bayside Brewers

Each year at Beerfest, we feature a special knockout competition as part of the event. This year's theme is "**Aussie**" — a celebration of beers that showcase Australian ingredients, traditions, native produce, or anything that captures the spirit of Australia.

Judging was conducted as a **Best of Show knockout competition**, with entries going head-to-head across three rounds.

Round 1 – Beers were grouped into sets of four. The top two beers from each group advanced to the next round.

Round 2 – First-place beers from Round 1 were matched against second-place beers in a head-to-head knockout.

Round 3 – The three remaining beers were judged side-by-side, with the panel determining 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall.

Entry	Description	Place
000203 Bunnings Pale Ale	Inspired by Australian craft beers. Lots of simcoe, cascade and mosaic hops. Pairs well with a bunnings sausage.	1
000302 Sam's Redemption Milkshake IIPA	Grains substitute for Barrett Burston varieties. Also, named after an Aussie chick.	
000208 Secret Galaxy	Aussie ingredients, easy drinking, golden colour. Pacific Ale-ish.	
000297 ANZAC Brown	This Brown Ale includes Aussie malts and hops as well as ANZAC ingredients: oats, golden syrup & coconut	2

Entry	Description	Place
000252 Arrogant C*nt Ale	American Strong Ale eg Arrogant Bastard, but with Aussie hops, showing those Yanks that us Aussies can make better beer!	
000258 Hahndorf Special	Crisp Lager, made exclusively with Joe White Signature Pilsner malt and Joe White Vienna Malt.	2
000206 Coco-Nut Battalion	ANZAC biscuit beer (oats, coconut, golden syrup)	1
000249 Total Eclipse of the Wheat	Wheat + Eclipse hops + local fresh Pride of Ringwood hops + harvested Coopers yeast + summer heat = AUSSIE WHEAT BEER!!	

Entry	Description	Place
000263 Aussie Aussie Aussie	contains all Aussie malt and hops including Galaxy, Vic Secret and Eclipse	1
000223 Geoffs Preimum Larger	Based on a recipe I came up with to replicate Cascade Premium when it was no longer available.	2
000305 Aussie DIPA	Galaxy hops and Barrett Burston malts	
234 TRoo Blu	Aussie malt, 3 x Aussie hops plus Aussie yeast = a summer thirst quenching Cold IPA	

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000223 Geoffs Preimum Larger	Based on a recipe I came up with to replicate Cascade Premium when it was no longer available.	1
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000263 Aussie Aussie Aussie	contains all Aussie malt and hops including Galaxy, Vic Secret and Eclipse	1
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