



Hashigo Zake Best of 2013 Survey Results

New Zealand's best educated beer drinkers have spoken, and the results are in. These are the results of Hashigo Zake's Best of 2013 survey.

Favourite Lager: Garage Project Pils 'n' Thrills

Runner up: Panhead Port Rd Pilsner

This year it was a two horse race from the beginning. Two new Wellington pilsners dominated the votes, swapping first place countless times over the two weeks. In the end Garage Project Pils 'n' Thrills just pipped Panhead Port Rd Pilsner by a few votes, with last year's winner, Tuatara Pilsner, bringing in third.

Favourite Wheat Beer: Three Boys Wheat

Runner up: Coronado Orange Avenue Wit

It appears 2013 was the year for zesty Belgian style witbiers, as the lemon-infused Three Boys wheat and Orange Avenue owned this category. In the end there was only one vote in it, with 3 Boys Wheat coming out on top. Last year's winner, Tuatara Hefe, comfortably took third.

Favourite Porter or Stout: Yeastie Boys Pot Kettle Black

Runner up: Three Boys Oyster Stout

For the second year running Yeastie Boys' Hoppy Porter/Black IPA/Cascadian Dark/whatever you want to call it, Pot Kettle Black, has taken out the dark category. Considering this beer is well past it's honeymoon period, launching in 2008, this result is a testament to Yeastie Boys and Invercargill brewery's consistently excellent brewing. Only a few votes behind PKB was the famous Oyster Stout from Three Boys – not bad for a beer that's only available for half the year. Honourable mention to Garage Project Aro Noir.

Favourite Pale Ale: 8 Wired Semiconductor

Runner up: Liberty Oh Brother! & Funk Estate Oh Lordy!

A newcomer to 2013, 8 Wired Semiconductor convincingly takes out this category, foreshadowing the predicted rise of the session beer & multipacks. 8 Wired Semiconductor sets out to satisfy hop-lust at a sessional ABV, and accomplishes the job handsomely. Liberty Oh Brother! and Funk Estate Oh Lordy! tie for second, possibly because people didn't realise they were different beers.

Favourite Amber, Red or Brown Ale: Garage Project Red Rocks Reserve 2013

Runner up: Liberty Yakima Scarlet

Yakima Scarlet, last year's runaway winner, has been dethroned by Garage Project's hot-rocked red ale.

Favourite NZ Brewed IPA: Liberty Yakima Monster



Runner up: 8 Wired Hopwired & ParrotDog BitterBitch

Controversially we again included Yakima Monster in the IPA category, as it skirts the APA/IPA borders. And again, Yakima Monster took out the category, up against more aggressive beers like BitterBitch and Hopwired, who tied for second.

Favourite Imported IPA: Ballast Point Sculpin IPA

Runner up: Green Flash West Coast IPA

The usual suspects featured in this category with Sculpin taking it out, Green Flash West Coast IPA in a clean second with Big Eye, Racer 5, Yellow Snow & Big Daddy all within a single vote of each other for 3rd.

Favourite Imperial IPA: Liberty C!tra

Runner up: 8 Wired Superconductor

Mirroring sentiments from other similar surveys and awards, Liberty C!tra is clearly your favourite Imperial IPA of 2013, if not all time. C!tra is the only beer to win its category three years running. Truly a juggernaut of hops.

Favourite Imperial Stout/Porter: 8 Wired iStout & Ballast Point Victory at Sea

These two beers were neck-and-neck throughout the voting, and ended up staying that way. Surprisingly iStout is a newcomer to the top three in this category, but has featured on tap more regularly in 2013. We currently have a few vintages aging up in our kegs, so keep an eye out for more in 2014.

Favourite Handpumped Beer: Cassels & Sons Milk Stout

Runner up: Townshend Old House ESB

Again, Townshend beers dominated this category gaining 35% of votes, but spread over their large range of ales, with Old House ESB the favourite. However, Cassel's Milk Stout again proves to be your favourite handpumped ale, with Twisted Hop's Hopback IPA bringing up third.

Favourite Beer in No Other Category: Yeastie Boys Gunnamatta

Runner up: Southern Tier Crème Brulee

Gunnamatta's cult following made this category a one horse race, doubling the votes of its nearest competitor Crème Brulee. Sadly, 2013 will be the last year of Crème Brulee as Southern Tier stopped exporting to focus on local markets. Your last chance to try it will be at X-Ale 2014 on the 8th of February!

Favourite Overseas Brewery: Rogue

Runner up: Ballast Point

A very close race here, with only one vote separating 1st and 2nd. In the end Rogue's huge and consistently good range bet out Ballast Point. Oddly, last year's winners Bear Republic didn't feature at all.



Your Beer of 2013: Liberty C!tra

Runner up: Funk Estate Super Afrodisiac & Panhead XPA

As if we needed more confirmation of how loved Liberty C!tra is, it takes out the best beer of 2013. Close behind were Funk Estates 'night time exercise' Super Afrodisiac and Panhead's ridiculously drinkable XPA.

New Zealand Brewery of 2013: Liberty & Garage Project

Runner up: Panhead

Considering their dominance in many of the above categories, it comes as no surprise that Liberty & Garage Project tied for your NZ brewery of 2013. We can't choose a favourite between these consistently excellent breweries, and it seems neither can you. Congratulations to both.

Panhead came very close to upsetting the tie for first, amazing for a brewery that's been around for less than half the year. You can expect to see Panhead featured prominently in the best of 2014 results.

Favourite New Release Tuesday: High Tea with the Yeastie Boys

Of those of you who could remember well enough to pick a favourite out of our dozens of NRT's, the one that stuck out the most was our High Tea evening with Yeastie Boys. Doileys, scones, tea and tea infused beer made this a night to remember.

Favourite Pie: Pork & Chorizo

Runner up: Beef Rendang

Much to Dominic's chagrin, his precious Beef Rendang again submits to the dominance of the mighty Pork & Chorizo Pie. Our newest (and my favourite) pie 'cheeseburger' failed to feature, which I'll be campaigning to change in 2014.

Best Hashigo Zake Beard: Dave "the beer guy" Wood

Runner up: Sam "murica" Whitney

2013 was the year that beards became cool, a fact that I've known for years. In honour of the year of the beard we thought we'd see how you like our more hirsute bartenders. I am honoured to be voted the best beardtender of 2013, but think it may have more to do with being the first name on the list.

Sam's bushy facewarmer came in close second. We even received some votes for previous staff members like Dylan Jauslin and Rei Harada, though I'm not sure how Rei would feel about that.



Most Enjoyable Hashigo Zake Event: PBE 2013

Runner up: High Tea & July 4th

A change of venue didn't temper enjoyment of PBE 2013, easily taking out this category. PBE 2014 will be returning to the beautiful waterfront Boatshed.

Most Promising New or Emerging Brewer: Panhead

Runner up: Baylands

With Panhead's impressive explosion onto the scene, it's not surprising that they gained over half the votes for this category. We can expect to see big things from the runner up, Baylands, in 2014 as well.

What Was The Story of 2013: Wellington cementing itself as Craft Beer Capital

Last year's ominous prediction that 'The Industrial Breweries will strike Back Against Craft Brewing' appears to not have come to fruition. There have been increased efforts by the big three breweries to encroach upon the 'Craft' market, thankfully most have been thinly veiled and unsuccessful.

Wellington's increasing dominance of the brewing scene and continued growth of inner city beer culture is clearly what stood out for our customers in 2013. Though it would be interesting to see what other regions' beer lovers think of this...

What Will Be The Story of 2014: The rise of the "Session Beer"

With beers like 8 Wired Semiconductor, Croucher Lowrider, ParrotDog ClippedWing & Dogg gaining popularity in 2013, will 2014 be the year we get over the 'big, strong, hoppy' craze and start to appreciate more subtle lower ABV beers? Most of you seem to think so.

Quite a few votes went to 'the term "Craft Beer" becoming obsolete', indicating more are realising the term no longer holds any meaning.

What Will Be The Next New Zealand Brewing Company To Be Sold: Epic Brewing Co.

A bit cheeky to ask this question, but the results are usually very interesting and usually indicate the brewery on top is doing very well and attracting plenty of attention.

This year's winner, Epic, is doing incredibly well in NZ and many countries overseas, will that make them an attractive target for a buyout?



The Winners Again

The summary of the survey results, along with the previous year's results for comparison.

	2013	2012	2011
Lager	GP Pils 'n' Thrills	Tuatara Pils	Croucher Pils
Wheat Beer	3 Boys Wheat	Tuatara Hefe	3 Boys Wheat
Porter or Stout	Yeastie Boys PKB	Yeastie Boys PKB	Rnce Craftsman /Oyster Stout
Pale Ale	8 Wired Semiconductor	Tuatara NZ APA	Tuatara American Pale Ale
Amber/Brown/Red	Garage Project Red Rocks	Liberty Yakima Scarlet	8 Wired Tall Poppy
NZ Brewed IPA	Liberty Yakima Monster	Liberty Yakima Monster	ParrotDog Bitterbitch
Imported IPA	Ballast Point Sculpin IPA	Bear Republic Racer 5	-
Imperial IPA	Liberty C!tra	Liberty C!tra	Liberty C!tra
Imperial Stout	iStout/Victory at Sea	Liberty Never Go Back	Ballast Point Victory at Sea
Handpumped Beer	Cassels Milk Stout	Cassels Milk Stout	Twisted Hop IPA
Beer in No Other Category	Gunnamatta	Gunnamatta	Renaissance Stonecutter
Overseas Brewery	Rogue	Bear Republic	Bear Republic
THE Beer of the year	Liberty C!tra	Gunnamatta	Liberty C!tra
THE NZ Brewery of the year	Liberty/Garage Project	Garage Project	Liberty / 8 Wired
Pie	Pork & Chorizo	Pork & Chorizo	Pork & Chorizo
Most Enjoyable HZ Event	Pacific Beer Expo	Pacific Beer Expo	Pacific Beer Expo
Most Promising New/Emerging Brewer	Panhead	Garage Project	Liberty
The Story of the year	Welly Craft Beer Capital	The Sale of Emerson's	The Radler Debacle
The Story of the next year	The rise of the "Session Beer"	Industrial Breweries Striking Back	Wellington Craft Brewing
Next NZ Brewery to be Sold	Epic	Tuatara	-