



Phill Judd and Marie Burns are rapt at their award for the Currach Irish Pub.



hey were dancing a jig on Great Barrier Island when the Currach Irish Pub picked up a prestigious global award in October.

Irish Pubs Global is an independent Trust established in Ireland, supported by Tourism Ireland and Bord Bia (Irish Food Board) to

connect and support Irish Pubs globally. Every year they hold the Irish Pub Oscars – an award ceremony recognising outstanding businesses around the world. This is entirely nomination based – over 16,000 nominations were received, and the final shortlist was judged by an independent industry panel.

“We received an email and phone call from Dublin telling us of our shortlist I thought it was a wind-up from an Irish friend,” says co-owner Maire Burns, originally from County Kerry. “They have nominations from five areas – Ireland, UK, Europe, North America and the Rest of the World. We were so thrilled to have been nominated in the top 10 in the Rest of the World group for Best Community Irish Pub and Best Craft Beer Experience Pub.”

Burns and partner Phill Judd were invited to the award

ceremony at Mansion House in Dublin, but they thought it was a bit far to go for the night. “When we received word that we had won the Best Craft Beer Experience Pub in the Rest of the World we were blown away. It is a huge accolade,” said Burns.

“I have always had a fondness for real ale from my time in the UK and organisations like CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) promoting traditional, naturally brewed beers,” said Judd. “I was fortunate to meet up with some amazing brewers including Alan Knight and Ben Middlemiss on Waiheke Island and, with friend Dave Roast, did courses in brewing with natural malts and hops. When we returned from Waiheke to Great Barrier in 2013 we bought craft beers back with us to The Currach and we now have eight draught beer taps including Guinness, of course, some New Zealand brands, and four taps plus a traditional hand pump dedicated to some superb hand-crafted beers that we sail over to the Barrier from Boogie Van Brewery on Waiheke Island.”

The pub has a good array of bottled craft beers from around the country. They’ve recently installed a wood-fired pizza oven. “There is nothing to beat the combination of a pint of beautiful craft beer and wood-fired pizza on such a magnificently beautiful location in probably the most remote Irish craft pub in the world,” Judd said.