



## **2020 SECRETARY MANAGERS REPORT**

Dear Members,

Wow, what a year it has been for all of us. We have been touched by the worst fire conditions our state has been involved in, the worst drought conditions many have experienced and a worldwide pandemic that I'm sure none of us has experienced. All of this has been in one single financial year.

I acknowledge the support of all of our members who's patronage and camaraderie during these trying times has helped our team enormously. Your club has been at the forefront in all of these disasters, which has often meant huge benefits to other members and our community as a whole.

Despite the trying times, your club sustained its vision of being the focus of social, sporting and community activities in the Camden Haven. 2020 was a financially challenging year for the club for various reasons detailed earlier. The work put in by the Board of Directors, management and staff during the uncertain times needs to be recognised. We have gone from being an emergency evacuation centre for nearly 800 people during the fires in November to trucking in water in January at the peak of the drought, to closing our doors with 12 hours notice for 12 weeks due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Like our Chairman, I congratulate our Federal MP David Gillespie, State MP Leslie Williams, Mayor Peta Pinson and all their staff for taking steps to reduce the impact of the worldwide pandemic on our lives. Our Staff has also done an outstanding job during the closures, part opening, part closures and part openings, to provide a safe environment for you, our members, and I congratulate them for their attention to detail and tireless efforts. I also thank most of our members for complying with the restrictions.

### **Finances**

It is pleasing to report a financial profit of \$161,000 for the 2019/20 financial year, significantly whilst being closed for trade for 12 weeks and having several weeks of take away sales only. This could not have been achieved without the support of you, our members.

Last year we had a low financial year whilst trading through renovations. The Club's Board and Management team worked towards significant improvements to ensure the long term viability of your club. We were certainly achieving this prior to the pandemic shutdown. The profit is a reflection of the work of our Staff, Board and Management team. The turn around is \$607,000 compared to last year, a commendation to all involved.

During the financial year, both the LUSC and KCC recorded a cash surplus of \$1,052,000, an improvement of nearly \$500,000 on the previous year. The improved financial performance was mainly attributable to reduced expenses due to the 12-week shutdown and the provision of the Jobkeeper subsidy.

As a registered club, we reinvest our funds into the community through grants, donations, or new facilities and events for your entertainment. In 2019/20, we supported over 80 sporting and community groups. Without the tremendous support from you, our members, this level of support to the local community would not happen. We hope you are as proud as we are to know that the profits from every meal you purchase, game played, show you danced at or watched, and beverage enjoyed has contributed to your community.

Our community support was recognised at this year's ClubsNSW Awards. We won the Community Awards category for our involvement with the Camden Haven Community @3, a project we have supported since its inception to recognise and support homeless people in our community.

As mentioned earlier, your club sustained its vision of being the focus of social, sporting and community activities in the Camden Haven. Throughout 2019/2020 we achieved this by:

#### *Developing an optimal club for the future*

As part of the club's commitment to members, we will improve facilities as financial opportunities arise. Following last year's refurbishment of the Gaming Room and Mountain View Room, at the LUSC we are planning to renovate the Sports Bar and Bistro for the benefit of our members.

At the KCC the Club has committed to spend over \$275,000 to upgrade power, improve catering operations and provide a world-class Junior Golf Academy.

The five-year plan for the KCC is in operation. Improvements would not have occurred at such a rapid pace without the assistance and commitment of our dedicated band of volunteers for whom Brendan Hansard and his team are so grateful. The plan is available to view in the clubhouse.

Due to the effort and expertise of Brendan Hansard and his team and with the passion and voluntary labour of the KCC Bowlers, the grass green is complete and drawing accolades from the bowling community.

#### *The focus of social, sporting and community activity*

In light of this business activity, we have not lost sight of our purpose to be a club for members. The club has provided \$1.3 million in members benefits including prizes, entertainment, bar, and catering subsidies.

Clubs are the heart of communities, and we supported more than 80 community groups, including 22 of our sub-clubs. Throughout the year, we hosted over 2,000 functions and are often commended for the high quality and range of entertainment we proudly provide. For this, my hat goes off to the team of volunteers and staff who ensure events are a success for all participants at both venues.

#### *The Team*

Without a great governing body, we would not have been able to deliver on these visions. The Board of Directors has been instrumental in delivering these outcomes. Each Director is the convenor of separate charters and carries out their additional roles in a professional manner for the improvement of your club. This year there are two nominations for life membership for two of our long-serving Directors, Ian Jackson and Ken Whyte. I strongly recommend you support their nomination based on their contribution to the success

of your club.

The management team and staff have performed tirelessly in delivering the policies that the board determines. During the last 12 months, we have lost two great management team members. Deniece Merryful has decided to retire, and Theresa Carney has taken up an assistant manager role in her hometown of Wauchope. Theresa did an outstanding job as our Finance Manager for the past four years. Deniece, as the Operations Manager at the KCC for over ten years, had worked for the club for 21 years. Both will be sorely missed, and we all wish them the best in their future endeavours.

The door has opened for Nathan Kerr to return to the club as the Administration Manager and Venue Manager at the KCC. He has been welcomed back by many old friends and is being well received by those new to him. Please welcome him aboard when you next cross paths.

During all this change the LUSC operations team led by Jude Bird has performed outstandingly, from juggling Covid safety plans to staff issues. Jude is assisted by a strong team including marketing and entertainment coordinator Mel Blanch and supervisors including Katrina Scott, Dean Myers, Rebecca Pryke, Leesa Snow, and Neil McIntosh, who all deliver a great experience for you, our members.

Jason Bird is doing a tireless job coordinating the catering team at the LUSC with the assistance of Daniel Ansell, Kylie Oliver and all our staff. Their creativity in offering delicious meals which cater for all tastes deserves high praise.

The club's golf professional Luke Garel does a great job in coordinating his team to make the golfers' experience at the KCC memorable. I look forward to working with him in the new Junior Golf Academy.

Unfortunately, like many of our community activities, those of Laurieton's RSL Sub-Branch are significantly impacted by the pandemic. Disappointingly, it would be fair to say, this would be the first year since WW1 that an official ANZAC Day service was not held. There was an independent laying of wreaths at the cenotaph, and the feedback from the dawn services held in our driveways was undoubtedly moving and memorable. At the same time, I look forward to working on a full service with Budgie and his team next April.

On behalf of our members, the club is grateful for the sensitive work conducted by our Welfare Team headed up by coordinator Anne Burton.

On behalf of the governing body, management and staff, thank you for your support and patronage this year. We look forward to welcoming you to your club for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,  
Robert Dwyer  
Secretary Manager