

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022-23

It is with pleasure I present to the Members another pleasing result. The Club was able to achieve an operating profit of \$716 690 and after depreciation and amortisation there was also a good result of \$313 344 despite the difficult operating conditions of increased costs and political pressure to reform an industry that is still recovering from 24 months of Covid uncertainty and closures. The Club also maintains a strong bank balance, term deposit and cash on hand.

The year ahead though will be challenging with the downturn in the economy, rising home interest rates and increased operational costs. Our proposed budget for 2023 has already been blown away with a near doubling of our electricity bill. Our 3 year contract finishes in January and the new annual bill will rise from \$140 000 to \$250000.. approx. \$700 a day will be paid out for our electricity.

I thank the board of directors for your efforts and input over the previous 12 months. The next 12 months and more will continue to be a challenge for us as a club, with the current financial climate and the political push for gaming machine reform being what it is. The impact of increasing interest rates and inflation on consumer confidence has been felt and is likely to continue to challenge all hospitality venues well into the new year and further. However, I am sure the decisions the board makes will continue to see growth and prosperity for the business.

As a club, I am very proud that we were able to continue support for the local community with donations of \$34 000 as well as significant in-kind donations.

Our team of staff has performed well and the contributions made by our CEO, Gordon, and Ops Manager, Donna, to ensure we have a great club which is engaged with its community should be commended. I take this opportunity to thank Gordon for his dedication to the club. His knowledge of the club industry is exceptional and his support to me as President has been valued.

On the bowls front, I would like to thank our greenkeeper, Andrew, for the standard he has presented our playing surfaces and club gardens and surrounds over the year.... they are a credit to his work and to the Club. Bowling numbers however, in both the Men and Women's clubs have continued to decline and the Board appreciates the Women's Club preparedness to unify with the men so that we can ensure the survival of Bowls at Lemon Tree.

Our Grade 5 open gender pennant team did the club proud. The disrupted and prolonged Pennant Season was a challenge. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Selection Committee of Carl Rumph, Kath Rados and Andrew Gardiner. Our side was extremely competitive throughout the season and reached the Zone final to be runners up. Congratulations to all who contributed to the success of the team throughout the season.

As mentioned at the Public Meeting, the Board has engaged our solicitors to undertake a complete rewrite of our constitution to bring it into the 21st century and make Club governance more accessible and more applicable to ALL our members. The most significant change is changing the business from a Co-operative to an Incorporated body. This will mean all members, not just the bowling members, will be entitled to vote and have greater access to the Board and decision making.

A special General Meeting will be held later this year for members to consider and vote on the proposed changes. For the future stability of our Club, I urge members to access an online or hard copy of the proposed amended Constitution and give it due consideration.

Ongoing and necessary building and plant maintenance matters are a real concern and a financial threat to the business. Also discussed at the Public Meeting was the planned infrastructure and modernisation of the Club which is still ongoing. If we are going to see our Club in a position for a strong and viable future we must make best use of the property assets we have and turn them into

income generating areas. This project is nearing presentation, presentation to you the members, and hopefully commencement.

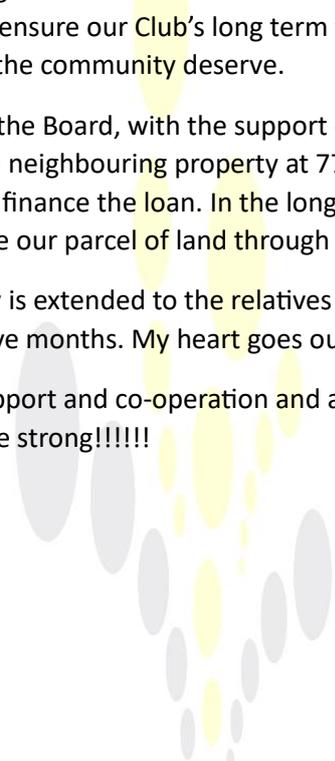
The proposed project in no way represents a “take over”, “amalgamation” or “merger” with any other club, nor will any of the Club land or property be sold. Any development would be on the basis of leasing the land, thus generating income from it. We have found a potential joint venture partner which is willing to work with us to ensure our Club’s long term future and provide the facilities our current and future members, and the community deserve.

To help strengthen our asset base the Board, with the support of our bank and the accountants, made the decision to purchase the neighbouring property at 77 Kenneth Parade. The house will be rented and income gained used to finance the loan. In the longer term it may increase the potential for development as it will complete our parcel of land through to Gould Drive.

In conclusion my sincere sympathy is extended to the relatives and friends of those members who have passed away during the twelve months. My heart goes out to you all, may they rest in peace.

I look forward to your ongoing support and co-operation and a great year ahead for our Club. And please remember; Together, we are strong!!!!!!

Kevin Colman OAM



Club Lemon Tree
...your local