



## 2024 President's Report

I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report and Financial Statements for Club Lemon Tree, summarizing our achievements and endeavours for the past year.

Following the post-Covid peak, 2024 proved to be a difficult year. Club Lemon Tree and the hospitality industry in general continue to confront challenges from industry reform, ongoing and increased Government compliance along with the cost-of-living pressure that many households are also facing. We were able to achieve a cash profit of some \$385 000 which, after depreciation and amortisation translated to an operational profit of \$7 675 some \$305 000 down on last year. Increased expenditure due to CPI, wages, write-offs, and depreciation were the main contributing factors. The club remains in a strong financial position with significantly more assets than liabilities. The Board has also managed to provide upgrades to our air conditioning, install a new CCTV security camera system, update our tills, install a new grill, fryer, pizza oven and other equipment in the kitchen. The Board also continued its path in future-proofing the club and adding to our assets by purchasing an additional rental property adjacent to the club's existing blocks of land. Our endeavours to diversify our income stream, renovate the clubhouse and develop the land continues but will be a long process. Future programs included in the budget are the replacement of lighting on the synthetic green, gaming room upgrade, and bistro area revamp.

I extend my gratitude to my fellow directors for their dedication, collaborative spirit, and insightful guidance throughout the year. Their commitment has been instrumental in steering us through the challenges and opportunities presented to us. The club will be eternally indebted to Vice President and Life Member Bill Vidal who sadly passed away during the year. Bill's contribution to the Board, the Club and Bowls over many years will be greatly missed.

My thanks to CEO Gordon Laffan and Operations Manager Donna Siers whose combined experience and passion to not only ensuring compliance is met, but that we continue to deliver and improve our customer service standards and serve the needs of our community. Thank you to all our staff, both permanent and casual, for their efforts on behalf of our members... you continue to respond to the challenges thrown your way with professionalism and compassion for all.

Our greenkeeper, Andrew, continues to make our greens and surrounds a picturesque environment in which to play and relax. The greens always receive very positive feedback and both these and the surrounds are a testament to Andrew's work ethic and pride in his work for the Club. Despite very limited use, the Board has maintained the luxury of having the grass green and allocated funds for further laser leveling and coring.

As we head into our 60th anniversary year we are also entering a new era for bowls at the Club. July saw the amalgamation of our Women's and Men's Clubs and a new joint bowls committee to oversee all bowling operations at the Club. I thank the previous Men's and Women's committees for your time and efforts on behalf of the respective bowlers.

I congratulate our bowlers on their success in bringing home both the Zone 2 District Men's 5 Grade and Open 5 Grade pennants. Unfortunately, although we did manage to reach the quarter-finals of the Men's we were outclassed by larger clubs during the State playoffs. But to reach this level was a tremendous effort and a boost to bowls at the club.

On behalf of the members, I also congratulate Vicki Parkinson on her win in the Australian Disability Bowls state and national events and for being nominated for Disabled Bowler of the Year.

I am pleased to report that despite the ongoing challenges posed by external factors, we have maintained our commitment to service delivery so that Club Lemon Tree is the preferred destination for leisure, entertainment and social gatherings in the community. The Club continues to support and contribute to the local community. More than \$22 000 was made by way of donations to not-for-profit organisations including PSC Scholarships, COPS Youth Counselling, Rural Fire Service' Marine Rescue, Tanilba Shores, Junior and Senior Mallabula Panthers, Tilligerry Football Club. Additionally, the Club provides a home for raffle income and in-kind donations (meeting/function room space, printing etc) for many local community groups such as Marine Rescue, Legacy, Tilly Auto Club, Lions, Scouts.

Following a difficult 12 months with our bistro and catering options, I am pleased to report that our new catering partners, "Zest", are receiving very positive feedback both on their menu and the service they provide. We look forward to their support in providing the quality and variety of food and beverage that our members deserve.

At this time last year, I foreshadowed the rewriting of our club's constitution to change from being that of a Co-Operative to an Incorporated Body. This brings our governance in line with current business and not-for-profit organisation practice. It will also allow a greater voice and governance by our social members going forward. After a long and protracted process this has finally happened.

In closing I extend my sincere thanks to all members for their ongoing support and loyalty to the club and for making it your venue of choice. Without your support, the club would not be able to provide you with the excellent facilities we have. I hope you continue your support of your club..it is valued and appreciated and it will ensure we continue to provide our community a venue that everyone can enjoy. Together we will write the success story of Club Lemon Tree.

Kevin Colman OAM