

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors I present to you the members, the President's Report for 2019/ 2020 on the activities of the Wallsend Diggers Group.

The club's focus is to always manage its finances responsibly in order that the promotion and continuance of the club is secure well into the future. With great support from our loyal members and the sustained efforts by our CEO and Senior Management Team, the desired outcome has been achieved during the last financial year.

These unprecedented times have called for unprecedented leadership and the Management team has worked collaboratively under the guidance of our CEO John Hume to deliver the Board's strategic objectives. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and committed team led by John who continues to plan for future ways to develop and expand our services and facilities for you the member.

COVID-19 has had devastating effect on all businesses and the hospitality industry has been no exception. Both clubs were closed from 23 March through to 31 May as per the Federal Government directive. The Main Club was further impacted upon reopening on 1 June when a positive Covid case attended the Club in July. NSW Health praised the Club for the quick action taken and the Covid Safe plan that was implemented by management.

The club was in a strong financial position going into the shutdown, which allowed the Club to continue paying its expenses as and when they fell due regardless of no income for the closure period. The result for the financial year was a combined loss of \$998,216 with the Main Club suffering a loss of \$646,979 and the Sports Club losing \$351,237. The outcome is promising considering the depreciation expense for the year was \$2,510,582.

The Federal Government put forward several financial initiatives for businesses that were affected by Covid 19. During the financial year the club qualified for the Job Keeper subsidy receiving \$565,500 to cover the costs of wages as well as a cashflow boost from the ATO and a 25% reduction in payroll tax.

The shutdown has allowed the Board and Management the opportunity to review and analyze all the operations of the business and adjust to meet the needs of the new Covid world. This has not been accomplished without some hard decisions. These have been made with the best interests of the members, patrons and community in mind considering the downturn in revenue. I must thank you the members for your continued support during these times.

A major change has been in the food area where the Wallsend Food Hub now comprises the Servery, Pantry and Steakhouse providing members with a casual dining experience.

This year's ANZAC Dawn service was cancelled for the first time in recent history. People still showed their respect with many having their own commemoration services in their driveways allowing them to keep the memories alive.

Although minor changes to trading hours has been made at the Sports Club, the sport of Lawn Bowls continues to thrive, and new players are always welcome. The quality of the greens continues to be among the best in the State.

The much anticipated and needed Motel development is approaching completion. To be known as Springs Wallsend, this 50 room Joint Venture project will allow us to modernize, grow and diversify our operations to be able to properly service the needs of our members and the community long into the future while minimizing the risk to the club. We look forward to this project opening.

Our commitment to our local community and beyond continued throughout the last financial year. Our total contributions which included Club Grants, donations, sponsorship, harm minimization initiatives, in-kind support and much more amounted to \$175,496. We recognize the social responsibility that we have as a community-based club and will continue to support those organizations' and individuals that make a difference to our community at large.

The success of any business can be attributed to the front-line staff. Here at Wallsend Diggers we are most fortunate to have excellent staff who have endured tough times this year. A pleasant smile, genuine courtesy and a friendly disposition are the trademarks to the wonderful service that the staff gives to enhance your experience when visiting the club. I can assure you that your efforts do not go unnoticed by the Board of Directors and we are very grateful to you all. Thank you to all our dedicated staff.

In August, Director Sonia Hornery MP resigned from the Board due to her expanding work commitments. Sonia's contribution to the Board and Club during the two years has been tremendous. Her keen intellect, good humor and pleasant demeanor will be missed. The Board filled the Casual Vacancy created by unanimously appointing local Greg Boswell. Greg brings corporate knowledge and experience to the position.

My thanks are extended to all my Board colleagues for your outstanding contribution and commitment in the decision-making process and for the many hours that you contribute to governing the business. The Board has worked together to achieve a common goal – the continued viability and growth of our club.

To Vice President Terry Morgan, Directors, Allan Crumpton, Ian Healey, Jason Dunn, Barry Twomey and Greg Boswell I thank you for your guidance and friendship over the past twelve months. Your corporate knowledge, professionalism, and commitment to the ongoing welfare of the Club cannot be measured.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Management I extend my condolences to the families of our members who have lost loved ones over the past year,

Finally, the year ahead will be a challenging time for the Board and Management as we move forward in a new Covid world. To our members I thank you for your continued loyal support and friendship especially during this period of redevelopment. The sustained growth of your Club can only be achieved by the support and patronage of our dedicated members. I look forward to that continuing in the future.

Peter Moore
President



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Wallsend Diggers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Hume
CEO



Peter Moore
President



Terry Morgan
Vice President



Barry Twomey
Director



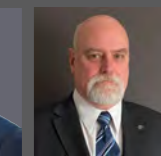
Allan Crumpton
Director



Ian Healey
Director



Jason Dunn
Director



Greg Boswell
Director



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