

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors I present to you the members, the President's Report for 2020/ 2021 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 exceptional 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.

It is pleasing to report another successful year and strong performance by the group, particularly after the re-opening of the clubs from the first COVID-19 lockdown. The Main Club has had a very successful and profitable trading year, declaring a profit of \$3,311,112 while the Wallsend Diggers Sports Club had a loss of \$243,953. This gives the group a combined profit of \$3,067,159.

This outcome is encouraging given that the group had a combined depreciation expense of \$2,408,895. This is reflected in the amount re-invested in the group and its facilities including Air Conditioner upgrades, updates to CCTV Equipment, Mezz Bar renovations and the purchase of property in the local community.

Whilst the club continued to trade well in its key areas, the industry trends were felt amongst the group with a reduction in Beverage and Catering Sales compared to previous years. This however does not reflect the quality level of service that the Club provides, but instead can be attributed to restrictions enforced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the time of writing this Report the club is under Statewide stay at home orders. 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. It has allowed us to bring forward some projects that were part of the strategic plan. 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 and look forward to the reopening under a new set of Public Health Orders.

This year's ANZAC Dawn service was held under strict conditions. No march was held and the number of people able to attend the service was limited. Activities on the day were restricted and aimed at a more family orientated atmosphere. It was good to see people commemorating the day and we look forward to the future.

The sport of Lawn Bowls continues to thrive, and new players are always welcome at the Sports Club. Several midweek and Saturday men's pennant teams made it through to their respective finals and will be keen to build on the success in the future. The quality of the greens continues to be among the best in the State and has attracted several District representative fixtures. Unfortunately, due to restrictions and weather conditions a number of planned tournaments had to be cancelled. We look forward to these being held next year.

Springs Newcastle was due for practical completion in March 2021. Major construction works were completed in January and the motel was opened and fully operational in April. Obviously, Covid has had an impact on the launch of Springs Newcastle. The property has only operated for one month when Covid lockdowns were not in place in Sydney or elsewhere in Australia.

Springs Newcastle is sitting with a rating of 9.1 Wonderful on Booking.com with 168 reviews. Feedback from guests has been extremely positive. While optimistic Springs understands that there are downside risks that may surface in 2022 and beyond.

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 \$208,828. 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.

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, Barry Twomey, Allan Crumpton, Ian Healey, Jason Dunn 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