

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors I present to you the members the President's Report for 2022/2023 on the activities of the Wallsend Diggers Group.

The club's focus is to always manage its finances responsibly to provide the best facilities available to members and their guests with a special interest in the welfare of returned services men and women and 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 and staff, the desired outcome has been achieved during the last financial year.

The Club has endured another year of challenges, but despite this has reported a strong profit of \$535,709. The Club was trading exceptionally well in the earlier part of the financial year, however this tapered off as economic pressures became more prevalent. In addition to this, the Club faced the closure of the Wallsend Diggers Sports Club.

The Main Club has had a very successful and profitable trading year, declaring a profit of \$1,054,688 while the Wallsend Diggers Sports Club had a loss of \$518,979.

This outcome is encouraging given that the group had a combined depreciation expense of \$2,468,516. This is reflected in the amount re-invested in the group and its facilities including renovations to the Wallsend Diggers Sports Clubhouse, balance of Kitchen and Sports Bar renovations and air conditioning upgrades. In addition to this the Club settled the purchase of a rental property in the local community. Pleasingly, the club has funded these capital purchases with cashflow (some \$3,507,054 for the year), as well as repaying \$1,750,000 off the Club's loan. This leaves the Club in a very strong financial position.

The Club has continued to trade well in its key trading areas, with bar and catering in particular being strong following the kitchen and sports bar renovations. The Club has, and continues, to incur higher inflationary costs and is continually monitoring these to ensure the ongoing profitability and therefore investment into this amazing community facility.

On 25th March 2023, Wallsend Diggers Sports Club was forced to close due to unforeseen events. The site of the Sports Club, 5 Fogo Street Wallsend, has suffered significant subsidence issues to the property. The subsidence has caused significant damage to the three (3) bowling greens and other areas of the site. The site is still being assessed by Subsidence Agency NSW.

This year's ANZAC Dawn service was held under fine weather conditions. The dawn service was conducted in Federal Park after the march from the club's premises with large numbers turning out for the march and the service. The ANZAC address was presented by Lieutenant Colonel Stevens from 5th Engineering Regiment and members of the RAAF No. 3 Control and Reporting Unit were in attendance. It was good to see people commemorating the day once again and we look forward to this continuing in the future.

Springs Newcastle Motel located on the top deck of the multistorey car park adjacent to the main club has been trading very well this year, exceeding expectations with numerous occasions being fully booked out. Numbers continue to grow as the economy continues to open and bookings are already filling up for events in 2024.

Springs Newcastle is sitting with a rating of **9.1 Wonderful** on Booking.com with many reviews. Feedback from guests has been extremely positive. While optimistic Springs understands that

there are downside risks that may surface in 2024 and beyond but look forward to increasing business as more opportunities open across the Region.

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 \$248,178.50. This far exceeds the Club Grants requirements and emphasises the Clubs engagement with the Community. We recognize the social responsibility that we have as a community-based club and will continue to support those organisations 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 clubs. 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.

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,

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.

Finally, the year ahead will be a challenging time for the Board and Management as we move forward in an environment of increasing costs of living. 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, and I look forward to that continuing in the future.



Peter Moore  
President