



## Secretary Manager's Report

Greetings and welcome to my annual report for the 2023 year.

I am disappointed to report the financial position of the club has continued to decline during the last reporting year to 30 June 2023. The Loss result \$97,915 (2022, Loss \$152,058). The Annual Report shows growth in most categories of revenue and expenditure which is largely attributed to being closed between 5 August and 12 October the previous year.

Again this year, Nick Nancarrow of Cutcher & Neale has remarked about The Club trading as a 'going concern'. On page 13 of the 2023 Financial Statements under the heading (c) Going Concern the same message is being conveyed. Despite our efforts to address this threat to the Club's survival we have not managed to successfully navigate through the challenge yet!

I urge members to review the annual financial reports and if you require further clarification or wish to ask the questions, I encourage you contact me so we can thoroughly research the answer to provide a prepared accurate response.

Last year in my report I discussed the changes to the catering operations and the decision to convert the second bowling green to a recreation space. With the catering operations we unfortunately did not select the best option at first. As a result, we went backwards with a divisive toxic element creating unhappiness and conflict within The Club. This negatively impacted us until The Barefoot Bistro started in March 2023. I am pleased to report the feedback is positive with the standard of meals presented at consistent high quality representing good value for money. The recreational space on the bowling green was recently implemented with the introduction of Sunday 'Beats on the Green', Father's Day BBQ, local sports clubs end of season presentations with a place for children to play. I am encouraged by the early signs of the broader community discovering this space for families to enjoy.

I am proud to report we continued our community engagement and support throughout the year with sponsorship of Kotara South Netball Club, Kotara Bears Junior Rugby League Club and 4 Darts teams in Hamilton District Darts Association. We have maintained our relationship with Kotara South Junior Soccer Club, Kotara South Public School, Belair Public School & Kotara High School. The ANZAC Day Memorial Service was very well supported again this year with the strong support of the local community. Our Club's program to engage with the local community is a priority and is considered by our Board of Directors to be a fundamental principle we need to strengthen to secure our future and grow to develop our relevance to the surrounding population. We will continue to look for opportunities to improve outcomes with this in mind.

Previously I reported we successfully obtained a government grant to assist with costs to upgrading the bowling green shade solutions. With the generosity of Club Charlestown donating some unwanted shades combined with the efforts of Club volunteers, improvements were made to the bowling amenities. This involved repairs and modifications to existing shade solutions to return them to operational conditional, installing a donated shade, removing old deteriorated synthetic grass

around green #1 and replacing it with new synthetic, repainting #1 green kerbing and performing some work to the north side of the #1 green to facilitate improvements in drainage. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Club members for their voluntary efforts who have contributed to improving outcomes here at the Club. I am happy to share The Club has been successful again this year to be granted \$16,500 to upgrade the bowling green flood lights to low energy LED lights. It is anticipated these will be installed within the next few months

The saga of the outstanding renewal of the land lease with Newcastle City Council is expected to soon come to an end. Until recently we adopted a 'go slow' approach to sustain hold over provisions of our expired lease keeping existing lease terms. During October 2023 Newcastle Council will publish the proposed leasing policy for public consultation at which time we can formally lodge submissions. We have recently hosted a meeting with other Bowling Clubs in the Newcastle Local Government Area that also lease from council to inform them about the proposed policy. We have learned there is another 6 Clubs in the Newcastle Council Area that will be impacted by this proposed policy. We will be aiming to achieve leasing terms with Newcastle City Council that will ensure our Club is sustainable in the long term and will enable the Club to continue to contribute to the local community and Council goals.

During the year your Directors have been entitled to allowances and honorariums for performing their duties. The Directors all elected to suspend their honorariums claiming none of the approved \$4,400. Your Directors' claimed \$597.35 in allowances since last years AGM for a half ham each at Christmas and meals at the bistro during or after meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for their support, guidance and encouragement. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the staff team for their support, efforts and assistance. Additionally, I express my appreciation for the members who contribute their time as volunteers and office bearers to improve the club facilities and conduct activities for club members.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead and look forward to continuing to serve as your Secretary Manager. Additionally, if you have any questions about my report or anything else please contact me at the Club.

Yours faithfully,

Benjamin Hamilton