

The Wonthaggi Club

President's Report 2021

Once again Covid restrictions have had a huge effect on our club, as it has on many other businesses and individuals and some may never be the same again. To the credit our management team, staff and directors we have kept our doors open throughout this crisis operating under restrictions with limited patrons and social distancing. Takeaway has been one of our focal points and helped provide employment to our loyal staff. We continue to offer support to our members and the community as a whole as best we can in these trying times. Unfortunately, by not being able to operate at full capacity it has taken a toll on us financially and we have recorded a loss of \$89,229. Mr Duscher will give more details in the Treasurers' report.

Our relationship with the Wonthaggi Golf Club is still strong, The Clubhouse when able to operate is going from strength to strength, with functions, pool and poker attracting good numbers. We have also secured an additional parcel of land under lease for future expansion on the Golf Club site with the view of creating accommodation and hopefully a new club house down the track.

The Club has invested \$200,000 through the Mercury Group to facilitate the purchase of The Golf House Hotel in Ballarat. This will return us \$40,000 over 5 years and will strengthen our long-term relationship with Mercury. We have also purchased a new Renault 12 seat bus for the use of members.

Once again, we have been limited socially, however we did manage to hold our Easter egg hunt at the State Coal Mine giving away \$11,000 dollars' worth of easter eggs and providing a great day out for many families with around 300 children joining in on the fun. We also managed to hold our lunch and presentation for our long-term members, presenting badges for 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years. John Hedley, Don Thompson and Ron Gilmore receiving 60-year badges, these gentlemen must really love the Club. Christmas lunch was once again a huge success with over 160 members and their families enjoying some great food.

In a tough year The Club has still made cash donations and in-kind donations totaling \$44,000, In addition to donated use of the bus, the marquee and our participation in and co-ordination of community events. Major donations went to Wonthaggi Power Football & Netball Club, The Club Cricket Club, Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club, Dalyston Football Netball Club, Wonthaggi Bowls Club, Loch Bowls Club, Wonthaggi Rotary and the Bass Coast Breakers women's football team. Plus, other funds that has been distributed through our Wonfund program.

Membership has remained steady with 3103 members including 793 effective members.

I would at this time like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Club to congratulate George and Joan Scott on their OAM. They are both great community people.

At this time, I would to make mention of the passing of Don Trewin. Don was a Club life member, long time board member and 60 plus year member. Condolences to Dons family.

Sadly, we said farewell to effective members David Brown, Pat Andrighetto, George Foster, Ray Durkin, June Gostling, Jeanie Grinham, Albert Klun, Shirley Klun, Maree Anderson, John Lee, Margaret McRae, Florence Milner, Betty Milner, Laurie Mitchell, Ron Motherwell, Arthur Phillips, Vic Piasente, Roy Smith, Jack Stephenson, Edward Walsh, Gretta Wilson, Loinal Wilson and JohnYoung. These members will be missed and our condolences go to their loved ones, and I sincerely apologise to any members family that I have not mentioned as it has been very hard to keep in touch during Covid lockdowns.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our board of directors, thank you for your time and commitment to our Club. Thank you to Steve, Bree, Jaye, Liam, Rakesh, Mel, Les, Belinda and the rest of our great staff for your dedication and effort during these trying times.

Alan Bolding

President - The Wonthaggi Club

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The Wonthaggi Club

Treasurer's Report 2021

On behalf of the Wonthaggi Club, I present the financial report for the year ended 30th June 2021. The full audited report is attached.

Not unexpectedly, the details clearly show that the business has again been significantly impacted by the on-going Covid pandemic and consequent restrictions placed on our operation, resulting in an overall deficit of \$ 89,229. The previous year saw a deficit of \$507k. The 110th year of the Club's operation has been another very challenging one in many ways due to the stop, start nature of the closures and restrictions but we have not been alone here as the community too has grappled with the far-reaching effects of the pandemic experience. Looking back as recently as 20 months ago we were seeing record growth in the business, increased membership, increased sales in food and drink and very stable income from our gaming machines. We had also completed the refurbishment of the "Clubhouse", an important part of our business plan for the future prosperity of the Club. We now have a real appreciation of how quickly things can change as we continue to ride the Covid storm. The cost has been immense over this period of lockdowns and restrictions with gaming income reduced by \$2.1m and food and beverages sales down by \$1.1m. This financial year has seen a reduction in income from the gaming machines of \$752k and food and drink sales down by \$233k. We need to be mindful that this impact will also be seen in the next financial year outcomes as the restrictions and limitations to our business have continued.

Certainly, another terrible impact has been on our valued staff with so many of them suffering the loss of more than 50% of their usual hours of work. The Board and the staff have appreciated the terrific support from the Government throughout this time with more than \$991k provided in Covid support payments. This has given us the opportunity to continue the strong commitment to our staff, their families and the community and keep the business operating in these tough times. Like so many others we probably never expected this challenge to go on for so long or the impacts on our lives and business to be so great. But it is what it is and we have been positive at all times.

Our staff have responded well under real pressure, working hard to get the best possible results, improving the way we do things, implementing new ideas and continuing to engage with our members. The takeaway meals in particular have been very successful. Club Manager Steve Curtis continues to lead the team well with special thanks to Bree, Trudy, Les, Belinda, Jaye, Melissa and Liam.

Despite the dark clouds, so to speak, there have been some real positives too, the completion of the new smoking area, the purchase of a new 12-seater vehicle to improve access for our members, acoustic panels and improved lighting in the main bar, an improved

position with cash at hand, up from \$608k to \$1.387m, decreased borrowings, increased funds from membership fees, reduced expenses (other), new cabinets and joinery in both gaming rooms, planning advanced for upgrade of kitchen facilities and rear loading bay at McBride Avenue and accommodation project at the Golf Club.

The Wonthaggi Club continues to have a proud and strong connection with the local community. It is very important to us and we generously donate to various Clubs and organizations and providing valuable sponsorship of community events and activities. Sadly, so many of these events and club activities were again cancelled or postponed but we were still able to provide over \$44k to help out, last year \$39k. We were very pleased to be able to run our own Easter Family Day at the State Coalmine, probably the best one we have had, with over 300 children attending and with great assistance again from our staff and members.

The Wonthaggi Club is very optimistic about the future. In the months that we have been able to operate without restriction the figures at both venues have been good and we have received a high level of positive support from our members and the community. We just need a good run at it which makes your patronage and support so vital. We encourage you to use the Club's facilities, enjoy our hospitality and recommend us to your friends.

Looking forward to happier and healthier times.

John Duscher

Treasurer - The Wonthaggi Club

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