

CHAIRMAN'S

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Members,

It gives me great pleasure to once again report to members, on behalf of the Board of Directors' of Mingara Leisure Group, the performance and community engagement of our clubs during 2015/2016. Each year, we focus on the delivery of our vision to make a significant contribution to the quality of community life and our view is that we do this very well across all our venues, and we will continually strive to provide and improve our services in each of our local communities.

Proudly, our financial contribution to the community is significant. In 2016, clubs within Mingara Leisure Group have contributed over \$2.1 million to many health, education, welfare and sporting groups. In the past ten years, we have supported these, and similar organisations to the tune of \$14.6 million. This year, the Mingara Community Celebration was a huge success with over 250 people attending this gala night. There were 24 community organisations that shared in over \$40,000, with Mingara funding some key projects for the community. The night was an opportunity to spoil and recognise those who are volunteering in our community and doing invaluable work that benefits the quality of life of others.

Mingara has a strong involvement in The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal and each year this event proves to be extremely successful and this year was no exception. It was another resounding success, raising much-needed funds to allow The Salvation Army to continue their important work. In May, Mingara also played host to The Red Shield Appeal launch and breakfast with over 200 people attending and \$35,000 raised on that morning.

Mingara Relay For Life continues to be one of the largest fundraising events on the Central Coast for NSW Cancer Council. Since 2001, Mingara has hosted the Mingara Relay for Life and over that 15 year period has raised over \$3 million for the NSW Cancer Council. In 2015, Mingara Relay for Life raised \$250,000, an exceptional effort for those who chose to participate including carers, sufferers and for those who chose to remember lost loved ones.

The Mingara goes PINK campaign has been another huge success with great engagement from our team, our members and the community. The campaign included a sold out, Girls Night In with the Funny Honeys, which raised \$7,000, a Pink Ribbon morning tea raising over \$1,000, and culminating in the big Melbourne Cup party in PINK. Funds from this year's campaign will complete the Central Coast Cancer Council Community Education Van project, allowing them to purchase a van to educate community groups and schools on cancer prevention and the early warning signs of the disease.

Continuing its focus on community literacy, Mingara has partnered with Books in Homes over the past 12 months to help deliver books to children in Central Coast schools. The Entrance Primary School has been identified as one of the local schools in our area whose students could benefit with being involved with such a program. Books provided to the school will assist in giving children their very own books they can take home as well as increasing the number of books available in their library for children to borrow.

The Westport Club also held the Red Shield Appeal launch for the Port Macquarie-Hastings region, hosting a breakfast for 126 people. Incredibly this breakfast event raised \$13,080, which demonstrates how well supported this partnership is between The Salvation Army and The Westport Club. The Red Shield Appeal is the major community fundraising event for The Salvation Army and this year, the Appeal focussed on homelessness and helping someone break the cycle of homelessness.

The Westport Club was also involved in Relay For Life. The Hastings Relay for Life event was held just down the road from The Westport Club at Macquarie Park on 5 March 2016. A wonderful community spirit was evident over the weekend with many teams donning fancy dress and creating a memorable atmosphere. The event raised \$24,000 through fundraising and a further \$5,000 through registrations for the event.

Marine Rescue NSW is our State's official volunteer marine rescue service, committed to saving lives on the water. The Westport Club has fostered a wonderful relationship with Port Macquarie Marine Rescue and donated \$150,000 towards a new \$840,000 large rescue vessel. The new vessel is now cruising the local waterways in Port Macquarie and will be used to monitor and manage waterways in the area.

Seed Harvest Spoon, a not for profit organisation based in Sydney's Inner West, has worked alongside staff and students of Riverwood Public School offering high-quality, engaging environmental education for the past 4 years. Lantern Club recently financially contributed towards the schools garden, where the children learn about environmental sustainability, growing food, healthy cooking and nutrition.

Lantern Club has forged many great relationships with local sporting groups, in particular, Kingswood Cricket Club. As their major sponsor, Lantern Club's contribution gives Kingswood Cricket Club the opportunity to deliver development programs to juniors, general community education on cricket and how to get involved. Accolades also go to Kingswood Cricket Club who generously reciprocate support by getting involved in Lantern Club's efforts to raise funds for Breast Screen NSW and in particular the local Canterbury Breast Screen service. The Club raised \$3,000 for Lantern Club's PINK October campaign via its "Pink Stumps Day" at Gannon's Park. On the day of the event, the community spirit was once again alive, as the Park was flooded by a sea of pink-clad cricket players! Well done to everyone involved.

I could seriously write all day about the amazing contributions from the clubs within Mingara Leisure Group – Mingara Recreation Club, The Westport Club, Lantern Club and Pearl Club Chatswood. We are truly grateful to all our team, CEO Paul Barnett and Executive Management Team, community volunteers, welfare, health, education and sporting organisations who come together to make these wonderful contributions to our local communities. We are all helping each other to deliver our vision to make a significant contribution to the quality of community life.

In addition, the sub and affiliated clubs at each of our venues always put their hands up to help out at many community events happening across our clubs and we thank them sincerely. A big thank you also to the Community Advisory Committees at each club, for their continued support and all the work they undertake throughout the year.

All your Directors' are substantial contributors to the success of Mingara Leisure Group and I would also like to thank them all. As the organisation continues to undergo substantial growth, the role and responsibilities of Directors are becoming increasingly important.

As the year draws to a close, we would like to thank you for your continued support, please enjoy the festive season, and keep safe.



Phil Walker
Chairman
Mingara Leisure Group