

Members

Well, what a year..... bushfire impacts at Port Macquarie, Springwood and Tumby Umbi, a fire at The Greens The Entrance which we were very fortunate both our members and team were not in the building at the time..... then COVID-19. I am very proud of the manner in which our team have handled this pandemic. All of our clubs responded immediately and took on board advice and requirements from NSW Health to develop, implement and continue to update our COVID-19 plan in this ever changing and challenging landscape. We have been congratulated on our approach of our management and regulation of our operations from NSW Health, Licensing Police authorities since the pandemic began. In fact, some of our strategies have been recommended to the industry at large.

I would like to thank my Board of Directors, Russell Johnston, Chris King, Debbie Montgomery, Kate Herron and Ian Robilliard, OAM for their dedication and support throughout the year. As you will know, Deputy Chair Gary Knight made the decision to retire in May of this year, and the board resolved for this casual vacancy to be filled by Ian Robilliard, OAM, who last year had previously been appointed as an additional Director.

Gary retired in his eighteenth year on our board. He is a keen member and former holder of a number of positions with our Snooker and Billiards Club. Both he and his wife, Rhonda have been appointed as senior referees with the State body, which is acknowledgement to both of their skill sets. Gary contributed his articulate skills in policy, strategy and governance, and he was instrumental in most of the policy documentation which are now in place for our Board.

The board continue to be members of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and we attended their Annual Governance Summit in Sydney earlier this year, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was about to gain traction. This has been an annual event for the board for some years now, as it is the highest level of training for directors available in Australia. This Summit is an invaluable experience for our board and provides our team with the opportunity to join business leaders from across all sectors and industries to network, attend training and gain a greater understanding of the critical issues facing our organisation and our board.

As all of our clubs were closed for a considerable period of time due to COVID-19, our contribution to communities through ClubGRANTS was not as significant as previously years. Nevertheless, we were still able to support over 117 community and sporting groups to the tune of over \$800,000.

Mingara supported 58 community groups including; SOKS, Save Our Kids, Lifeline deliver programs into schools which help identify those kids at risk of suicide. \$15,000 was granted to fund this program

Shelly Beach Surf Club, this club have 535 members which include 270 nippers and 120 lifesavers and were a very deserving recipient. They have purchased a new multi purpose equipment trailer. \$17,500 was granted to fund this initiative.

Elsie's Retreat, is the first fully equipped palliative care unit on the Central Coast. With immense efforts by East Gosford Lionesses, this unit has been in planning for many years. We assisted in the furnishing of the ward. \$20,000 was granted to fund special recliners and other items to make the ward as comfortable and homely for patients.

NSW Cancer Council, This home help program assists people on the Central Coast who are undergoing cancer treatment. \$10,000 was granted to fund this program.

The Westport Club supported 33 community groups including:

Lake Cathie Rural Fire Brigade is operated by volunteers and is a first emergency response brigade not only for fires but for serving as support to other emergency services. \$4,924 was granted to fund the purchase of new radios that will improve communications between trucks and volunteers on the ground fighting the fires.

Liberty Domestic & Family Violence Specialist Services provides specialist support and housing services to women and families affected by domestic and family violence and homelessness in the Port Macquarie Hastings region. \$40,000 was granted to fund a mobile outreach service, connecting and providing equitable access for regional and remote communities to domestic violence support, awareness and education sessions, referral pathways and adapted group work.

Lantern Club supported 14 community groups including:

Learning Links, work directly with schools and parents to support local school students who have learning difficulties. \$20,000 was granted to fund programs for schools in the Canterbury area.

McCallums Hill Primary School, the Sensory garden is a place for students to lower anxiety levels and become stimulated with their surroundings. Lantern Club had previously donated funds to complete stage 1. A further \$10,000 was granted to assist funding stage 2, which will include a sandpit, small bridge and vegetable patch.

Springwood Sports Club supported 11 community groups including:

Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre provide a range of programmes and services which support people and families who are disadvantaged and aim to create a more vibrant, sustainable, resilient and self-reliant community. \$3,500 was granted to fund the refurbishment of the community garden for anyone in the community.

Dymocks Childrens Charities mission is to promote a love of reading and improve literacy outcomes for Australian children. \$6,500 was granted to rejuvenate school libraries in the local community.

Of course, there were many other community and sporting groups who received funding. Details of all the 2019/2020 beneficiaries are provided for our members on Mingara Leisure Group's website.

I would like to thank all members of the Community Advisory Committee for their activities and support of our organisation throughout the year.

My thanks also goes to our CEO Paul Barnett and his Executive Team, Grant Gladman, Lisa Evans and Andy Yelds for their dedication to our organisation throughout the year, in very challenging times. Our General Managers of all our clubs and their teams have worked diligently to make this business a success, and put in the extra yards to provide "great" service to our customers.

Our team have worked tirelessly to ensure we come back from the COVID-19 pandemic, a stronger and better group of clubs. Things may be a little different from now on as we work through what the new "normal" is. Even so, we continue to strive for our vision "to make a significant contribution to the quality of community life". I would like to thank you, our members, for your ongoing support of "your" clubs. Without your support we will not be able to reach our vision.

As the end of the year draws closer, may I wish each and everyone of you the happiest of Christmas' with your family and friends and a safe New Year.



Phil Walker
Chair
Mingara Leisure Group