

Members,

Well, another year of sudden change with ups and downs. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly taken its toll on people, businesses and the community in general. It has been extremely challenging for Management and our team to deal with rapid and extreme changes to the operations of our clubs. From a financial aspect, the first half of this calendar year saw us achieve a successful period of trade, however the lockdown in June meant almost all our team were unfortunately stood down.

From the humble beginning's of gathering in Clive and Shirley Hadley's lounge room on October 26, 1971, Mingara's story began and this year we celebrate our 50th Birthday. Today, we have grown to five clubs who all live our vision "to make a significant contribution to the quality of community life", something we can all be very proud of.

Supporting our communities during the COVID-19 pandemic is a priority for us. We contributed more than \$1.9 million during the 2020/2021 and supported over 100 community groups across our group. I am very pleased to share some of the community activities and funding which our clubs have been working on;

**Mingara's Sporty Kids Program** is proud to provide \$50,000 to local schools as part of a project to help children be more active. Local schools have the choice to use their \$5,000 grant to purchase new sports equipment or use these funds on a sporting program. Two of our local high schools purchased equipment to create mini gym spaces encouraging students to start their journey towards a healthier lifestyle. Other local primary schools will be purchasing a variety of different equipment, which will be purchased in Term 4 this year, when schools re-open for face to face learning.

**SOKS Project (Save Our Kids from Suicide)** has been an ongoing project working with Lifeline and Gosford North Rotary on mental health for our youth. We have been able to support a Suicide Prevention Course along with other programs rolled out to teachers and students at many of our local schools.

**Go Red for Dyslexia 2020**, The Westport Club were proud to partner with Dyslexia Mid North Coast's (DMNC) to advocate to inspire all children to "not be defined by their dyslexia". Despite COVID-19 restrictions DMNC successfully held Go Red for Dyslexia, which is in its fifth year. As a direct result of DMNC's campaign and online petition "Say Yes to Phonics Check", the NSW Government announced that from 2021, phonics would be compulsory for every Year 1 class across NSW. This is a very successful outcome for all children with learning disabilities.

The March 2021 Floods were a significant natural disaster for the Port Macquarie-Hastings community. The days following the floods, the team at The Westport Club were very much consumed by supporting both their fellow team members and their community at large. The team also provided support to many local groups including; our sub and affiliated clubs, community partners, Laurieton United Services Club, Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, flood victims, Marine Rescue, Australian Defence Force, and Telegraph Point Sports Club.

**Lantern's Sporty Kids Program** is a partnership with Creating Chances which promotes health and wellbeing through physical activity. The Lantern Club team were connected through this program by visiting each of the 10 schools in the program and participating in an outdoor activity with the students, using the equipment they purchased through this program. Our total contribution for this initiative was \$50,000.

Lantern Club saw **Setting New Boundaries**, which is an early intervention project from Horizon Theatre Company (HTC), as an initiative which could make a positive difference to our youth's lives. HTC use art, particularly drama, dance and music, to bring together diverse youth to address the issue of relationship violence. Participants learn about the less obvious forms of relationship violence and how to set up personal boundaries to prevent abuse.

Whilst The Greens The Entrance is closed due to the devastating fire in March 2020, we have still been able to financially support their bowling club in excess of \$180,000. There were many other community and sporting groups who received funding from us. Details of all the 2020/2021 beneficiaries are provided for our members on Mingara Leisure Group's website.

I am pleased to say Mingara are in the middle of transforming your club and the Board would like to thank Mingara members for their patience during this period. Some members may have already experienced our great new community room and amenities. We are confident this will be a refreshing change and a well-deserved transformation for everyone.

Once more Members, your Board of Directors have worked collaboratively with each other and the Executive Team to ensure our organisation is placed in the best position moving forward. I thank my fellow Directors, Deputy Chair Ian Robilliard OAM, Russell Johnston, Chris King, Debbie Montgomery and Kate Herron for their great support and energy throughout the year.

Each year your Board of Directors continue to receive education and training on governance, strategy and finance. Bi-yearly we attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors Governance Summit, where the level of education received is at it's highest available in Australia. ClubsNSW encourage Board members to record their training through Continuing Professional Development. I am pleased to say all our Board members well exceeded the goal of 40 points per year for this financial year.

The Board also congratulate both CEO Paul Barnett and his Executive Team. A skilled group of professionals who have all done an excellent job of growing viable clubs by providing 'great' customer service, supporting their communities, and continuing to drive an unique culture. We would also like to acknowledge Paul's Executive Assistant, Catherine who does so much to support both myself and the Board.

The Community Advisory Committee members at both Mingara and The Greens The Entrance are appreciated for their commitment and passion for their club. Congratulations on your appointments to your respective committees.

I would like to especially thank you, our members, Life members and Foundation members who continue to support our clubs. Your continued patronage of Mingara, The Westport Club, Lantern Club, Springwood Sports Club and soon The Greens The Entrance is valued greatly. This allows us to continue to improve your facilities, plan for the long-term future of our organisation and continue to spread our Vision by supporting welfare, sporting and community groups.

With Christmas fast approaching, I take this opportunity of wishing you and your family a safe and happy Christmas.



Phil Walker, Chair  
Mingara Leisure Group