

### Members

Our Board of Directors once again are extremely proud to be involved with such a great organisation which has such strong connection to all parts of our local and regional communities. This continues with our vision to make a significant contribution to the quality of community life.

Of course, we still support many larger events, such as Mingara's Relay for Life which attracts great community involvement, however, there are so many other community organisations we support which you may not be aware of. Some of them include:

Under the welfare category, **Doggie Dates** fosters inclusivity, promotes good mental health, and encourages social interaction for people and dogs. This group provides free therapy with trained and vaccinated dogs, certified handlers, offering significant emotional and cognitive benefits. The dogs have attended many events in our Tasman Rooms, and we have supported this group with \$5,000 cash and in-kind room hire.

**We Care Connect** supports children who are homeless or victims of family violence. This group is a volunteer run organisation working to fundamentally reverse the impact of childhood poverty throughout the Central Coast. This program provides 200 children with a care pack with the hope the community cares and is willing to provide them with bare essentials. Mingara support ensures the most needy children receive some assistance. Our support through ClubGRANTS was \$8,000 in cash to this group.

**The Bikers Hand** is a newer charity on the Central Coast who have completed some amazing community work in the Sydney region.

With many families struggling with cost of living pressures, the need is greater than ever and there is no other local group putting together Christmas hampers to bring some Christmas cheer on the day. This year, the Bikers Hand will provide food hampers and distribute them to Central Coast charity groups to assist those most in need on the Central Coast. This will help to ease the burden on families at this time of year. We are excited to be a part of this initiative with plans for the Mingara team to attend the packing day, volunteering their time.

**The Annex, Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College**, is a behavioural and emotional high support unit which caters for Years 7 to 12 students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. These students require individual tailored support in order to receive access to a quality education. Students housing arrangements include foster care, group homes and for those still living within the family unit who receive minimal fundamental care.

Our funding helps with personal hygiene items, food, clothes washing facilities at school, inclusion support and community excursions to enrich the lives of these student. For those students who don't have a lot, this funding this goes along way.

**Mingara Regional Athletics Club** received cash and in-kind use of our regional athletic facilities. The club has 500 members ranging from tiny tots to master's and includes the Little Athletics Group. The ClubGRANTS cash is used to purchase trophies, uniforms and their end of year trophies.

The Westport Club have partnered with **Dymocks Children Charity Book Bank Program** which supports students from Year 3 to 6 by promoting book ownership and a love of reading. Students select a brand new book each term, from a specially curated catalogue of age appropriate, recent and relevant titles. Students are encouraged to read, swap and share the books with their classmates and at the end of each term, they are able to keep their chosen book to cherish.

**Marine Rescue** in Port Macquarie is an all-volunteer organisation, who receives continued support from The Westport Club via our ClubGRANTS program. They are dedicated to providing maintenance of the principal sea rescue vessel "Westport Spirit ". The Westport Club has a long and strong association with Marine Rescue which has enabled them to provide an essential rescue service for the boating and public in the Hastings River and coastal waters off Port Macquarie.

Delivering the **Kindness Curriculum** to local primary schools in the Canterbury-Bankstown region has been a rewarding experience for the team at Lantern Club. The Kindness Curriculum is an all inclusive social emotional learning program, as it addresses and explicitly teaches the social external tools required to be kind and connect with others. The students also benefit from learning the internal emotional skills they need to be kind and connect with themselves. Many programs focus on either social skills or emotional tools, not both.

The aim of the **Supertee Program** via Fair Fight Foundation is to alleviate the discomfort and distress children experience when battling life-threatening conditions. They do this through the creation of innovative products and services which aid the children in their treatments, surgery and scans in hospital. The Supertee is a medical garment disguised as a superhero costume which has been specifically designed for children facing long term treatment for their health. With the financial help which Lantern Club provide, they are able to provide the Supertee's free of charge.

Springwood Sports Club supported the **Walk It Off Program** throughout the year. Walk it Off endeavours to increase the communities awareness around men's mental health. The group are very active in the Blue Mountains community and the team at Springwood look forward to continuing to build a relationship with them, assisting them in accomplishing their goals.

Funding **Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre** in the Blue Mountains has provided them with the opportunity of introducing an Intergenerational Program with Uniting Springwood and Bunya preschool. Around one in five older Australians are socially isolated and this rises to a third of older members of our community living in residential aged care.

The program provides the opportunity for a preschool class to socially interact with the care facility and create meaningful friendships. Supporting this program demonstrates real commitment to their community.

In total this year, Mingara Leisure Group has supported over 125 community organisations, groups and charities to a total of over \$1.3M.

What a year it has been, the downturn in the economy, cost of living pressures, mortgage rate increases, fuel, energy and grocery costs are all rising. It has been challenging for many people, not only here in this region, but right across Australia, and it is going to continue to remain a challenge.

Notwithstanding all of this, we have progressed with many new projects. Encore By Mingara and The Greens The Entrance are both on track to open before the end of this year. We also await the imminent approval of the Development Applications for both our Early Learning Centre and Retirement Living development. This is a significant State development, which will have a positive impact on our community.

Financially, our organisation has performed admirably throughout this financial year. Our Chief Executive Officer, Paul Barnett has provided you with further detail in his Annual Report.

I thank my Board of Directors, Deputy Chair Ian Robilliard OAM, Kate Herron, Russell Johnston, Debbie Phillips and Jemima Gleeson. Jemima was appointed to the Board following Chris King's decision to retire this year. Chris, I would like to formally thank you for your years of service to Mingara. You are an outstanding individual and a great friend. Jemima is a successful businesswoman. She and her husband Ben own Glee Coffee, a large wholesale coffee business at North Wyong, and they have developed, purchased and sold several retail businesses on the coast. Jemima has a great deal of commercial experience and has been a great addition to the Board.

I would like to also thank Chief Executive Officer Paul Barnett, Chief Operating Officer Grant Gladman, Chief Financial Officer Joanne Jarvie and Chief Property Officer Andy Yelds for their outstanding contributions to our business. Of course, the business doesn't operate without the support of our large team, and you, our members, who without your continued support, our organisation doesn't progress.

To the Community Advisory Committee, thank you for the work you do each and every year to support the business and the Board of Directors.

Once again, to you our members, thank you so much. We continue to work together with you, to make that significant contribution to our communities. As the end of the year approaches, have a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year.



Phil Walker  
Chair  
Mingara Leisure Group