

# From the Boardroom

## April 2024 Meeting

**Our most recent meeting was 28 March 2024.**

### Committee

Dean Candy has resigned from the Committee. He had a lot of good ideas that will be worked upon by both management and the Committee during 2024. Craig MacMillan has come out of retirement to take his place. We welcome his experience and knowledge back.

### Financial Year 2024

We closed the financial year last Sunday 31 Mar 24 and welcomed in the new one on Monday. We will finish the year showing a satisfactory profit before depreciation. The Audited accounts are expected to be finalised by end of May 24 and our AGM is scheduled for a Sunday mid-June – just need to be conscious of what the Adjuncts are up to so as not to clash.

### 2024-25 Committee Strategy

Our strategy of repaying debt remains especially with interest rates higher than recent history. Last year we repaid debt in excess of \$100,000. Sure, the Higgins contract underwrote this, but sensible stewardship was still required. We expect further repayment this year. Our balance Sheet remains strong with bank debt 14% of Member Funds/Equity.

### Functions

During March we held a Veteran's Cricket dinner and have made ourselves available for funerals and the associated After Function. 8 Ball (Pool) and Racing continue to run events that are well attended, and we thank them for that.

A sample of what is planned until the end of June is as follows:

20 Apr 24	ABBA Tribute night
9 May 24	Food & Wine match dinner
24 May 24	Queen Tribute night
8-9 Jun 24	8 Ball Open Tournament
22 Jun 24	Mid-winter Grumpies Lotto Christmas Dinner
29 Jun 24	Band Emerald is back

We also have ideas we are working on for the back half of the year. All the shows/tribute evenings will be open to the public so please get in early if you want to go to these. You can now use our "ticketing" system online and book and pay (excellent security) via our website.

We welcome the following adjuncts/events to our regular indoor adjunct activity.

<b>Darts</b>	Every Thursday 7 pm
<b>Cossie Wine tasting</b>	First Wednesday of every month
<b>8 Ball</b>	Every Wednesday 7 pm
<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	Every Thursday time?
<b>Quiz Night</b>	24 April is the next one teams of a maximum of 6

Quiz Night tickets are available at the Office/Bar or Online via our new Ticketing Portal

### Damn

Some annoying people have decided our grass area is a good place to wheel spin etc. We are going to be forced, at a cost, to put a barrier to prevent them getting in. *Love to charge them.*

## **Inflation**

Many of you would have received inflationary boost to your incomes recently, a sure sign that inflation, while seemingly slowing down, is still there and ever present. In recent times we face hikes to our costs Insurance (14%) Interest (64%) Rates (Proposed 23%) plus minimum wage rate increases. Last year we had a big hike in our electricity costs (34%). None of these are within our absolute control other than monitoring usage. These increased costs have added tens of thousands to the operating costs of running any business. The only way to remain financially viable and survive as a Club is to increase selling prices to a competitive level. You will not be surprised at the increase when taking into account the price increases above.

As mentioned last month the Committee has taken the bold step not to have a progressive price increase regime for our Bar prices but to implement all the increases on 1 July 2024 when the final increase for this round is known and your Club will bear the cost of some of these increases until then. Please don't attack verbally Lorriane and her excellent crew who do a great job looking after us. Remember, it is what it is and it is not your Club's fault.

Gareth and his Restaurant team are reviewing options all the time and looking to provide meals of excellence at a reasonable price. It is very hard work in inflationary times. We continue to thank him and his team for the excellence in service and quality provided to us patrons.

## **Staffing**

It is worth noting the high number of letters of gratitude we receive from organisations having functions at your Club. All our staff both front of house and the back room do a great job.

In addition, in recent times we have welcomed key personnel to allow us to operate more professionally and not rely on some of our key staff to be burdened with "everything".

## **Projects**

### ***Outdoor Bowls Ablution Block***

Not much has happened since the consent was received. We understand that the fund raising activity is to recommence in earnest again.

## **Adjunct Meetings**

These are to be restored and Jason and Barry from the Committee along with our Manager Christian will front them. These are to be planned to be held bi-monthly.

## **Solar Panels**

We continue to investigate the economics of solar panels and Eddy, Jason, Christian and I are in discussions. We are reviewing an alternate approach which will not involve any capital expenditure on our part. We are adopting a cautious approach.

## **Constitution**

We had the special general meeting on Friday 5 April 2024 5pm to vote for changes to the constitution that are required by the IRD for us to have Charity status and therefore no interest on withholding tax. The 70 odd members present voted unanimously in favour of these necessary Constitutional changes. We thank them for their co-operation and attendance. Special thanks to Colleen (Mother Mac) for who work registering all the people Richard Cross for his legal assistance and Val for being the Secretary to the meeting.

There is plenty for everyone at the Club so if you have not been for a while come on down and you can see for yourself what we are offering. We are certain you will enjoy the experience.

Gerald McCarthy  
Committee Chair  
3 April 2024