

## PRESIDENTS REPORT – AGM – 9 October 23

The past twelve months have been an important period of consolidation for the Club as we get used to life with and after COVID. We are still on this journey and as we all know while COVID remains a threat to health, the strategies and controls introduced during the pandemic are today more self-assessment rather than Government direction.

I am pleased to say that our membership numbers have continued to grow, and the hesitancy about attending activities has eased. Financially we are travelling positively as the Treasurer will repeat after I have finished. I note the change to the voucher system was understood as necessary to our future financial position.

For those interested in statistics, we now have 830 financial members, which is a record for any previous membership period. 22 / 78 mix of men to women which is encouraging to see male members gradually increasing. The average age is 71 years with 90 members being 80 years and over. I continue to be amused when retired/older people tell me at Senior events that they will only join when they are older! There is certainly still some sort of stigma out in the community about Senior Clubs being part of God's waiting room.

Your Management Committee has met every month to oversee the ongoing management of the Club – activities, maintenance, financial. We developed a new Mission Statement to ensure everyone visiting the Club, physically or via our website, sees clearly what the Club's purpose, vision and values are.

Apart from the Management Committee, the Club has small groups and individuals who contribute to keeping it 'alive and well' and I thank them for that.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of the Gardening Group – small though it is – to make the areas at both buildings more convivial and attractive. The recent pruning of the photinias along the Cottage perimeter has allowed more sunlight into the garden and will lead to further development in that area.

I also acknowledge the work of members who continue to update the displays on the walls in the main hall with photos and paintings, making the space more welcoming.

And of course, there is the work of the now combined 'Events & Excursions' committee who have held some successful social events and day trips during the year. Both have suffered with lack of numbers of late but are seen as an important part of the Club's calendar. In that regard, we have noticed the popularity of some social events seems to be waning though we will work hard to develop attractive events.

I trust that you all appreciate the commitment and loyalty of the 6 volunteers that man the office five days a week, every week. Without the ladies the Club stops. I am also guilty of conflict of interest in acknowledging the efforts of my wife Janelle who writes the weekly Bulletin and basically oversees the daily running of the Club including the job of Treasurer.

Being President of any sort of Club is a mix of effort and reward. I have been fortunate as your President for the past four years and I am more than happy to continue in the role if you want me. One the other hand, it is in the life blood of any vibrant Club to have a ready succession plan. Not only for President but all other committee positions. Last year I raised the need for new blood in any Club so please give it thought for the future.

I want to recognize the efforts of the existing Management Committee and to thank those retiring members. Not only do they perform their duties in the committee, are my first call to represent the Club when required, perform handyman services when things break, liaise with members to prepare proposals to improve Club facilities, support gardening by being available for watering and weeding of gardens etc. You get the message. They do more than simple committee members and I thank them for their time and effort.

And last but definitely not least, we all should thank the activity leaders who take on the responsibility of managing the calendar activities and without whom the Club just could not function.

That's all from me, thank you for your continuing support.

Phil Burns  
President