



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is pleasing to report that the Club posted a small before tax loss of \$4,544, which is a significant improvement on previous years. In football parlance, no loss is a good loss, but in this case there was an underlying cash profit of \$55,158 which is testimony to the hard work of the management and staff of the Club in difficult trading times.

As has been well recorded, the current Club premises are nearing the end of their operational life. A planning proposal application is currently being lodged with Georges River Council with a view to commencing construction of a new building on the current site. This building will house the new Mortdale RSL Community Club as part of a larger mix of commercial and residential units. The Board has reviewed the planned design and will continue to do so as the planning process continues through demolition and construction.

The current layout of the Club premises makes it very difficult to offer a full range of services to all members and visitors. One of the main design features of the proposed new Club will be having all facilities located on the same level with enhanced access for all patrons. The deficiencies of the existing building were highlighted by the significant entry of storm water into the dining area during the recent storm activity. Tens of thousands of dollars have been spent to correct this issue but the fact remains that sections of the roof are beyond repair. The only cost effective way to deal with this and numerous other problems which are not immediately visible to patrons, is a complete rebuild. Ideally, this should have occurred a decade ago.

It is difficult to predict a timeframe for this development to occur but it is likely that the Club will continue to trade from its existing premises for at least a further two years. With this in mind, there is still a need to ensure sustainable trading until such time as temporary closure occurs and this will continue to be a challenge for management. General feedback continues to praise the quality of the food offering but the increasing input costs due to the drought has made this difficult to sustain. The Board and management are committed to continuing the standard of Club catering for both functions and occasional dining as this has been a key contributor to the increased patronage that we have experienced over the last few years. Similarly, the downstairs Coffee Shop has improved its offerings and is proving increasingly popular with patrons.

This year it is the turn of Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch to host the annual ANZAC Dawn Service. This will occur in the Memorial Park on Boundary Rd. commencing at 6:00am, with the traditional breakfast and two-up to follow at the Club. It would be great to see a big turnout from the members for this event and the events that follow during the day the Club. The Board continues to have an excellent relationship with the Sub-Branch, reinforcing the commitment to the RSL ethos. I thank John Delaney, Sub-Branch President and his committee for their support.

The key to financial sustainability lies with you, the member. As can be seen from the 2019 result, if you continue to support the Club, then the Club will continue to exist and provide the services that you have come to expect. Use the Club, bring visitors, encourage them to join the Club, hold your next family function in the auditorium, attend one of our band events or other Club entertainment, come down to the TAB lounge on a Saturday afternoon, watch the football in the lounge area... Tony and his team will continue to promote Club events via SMS, the Club website and social media so all members and prospective visitors are aware of what the Club has to offer.

Geoff Denyer,  
President