



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2024

In composing this year's report, I reflected on those which I have written over the past few years. There was much disappointment and some frustration on show, but this year I feel that there is now light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. As most would be aware, the strategic direction of the Club has been dominated by the Board's determination to undertake a major redevelopment of the site. If done properly, this should secure the future of Mortdale RSL Community Club for the next generations of members. Unfortunately, significant sections of local government have acted to appease a minority of those opposed to any, and all development in Mortdale beyond that which currently exists in an around the CBD. This is despite the fact that, in October 2023 Club members won a small, but significant, victory at Council in gaining support for a minor change in development rules for the current site. Whilst this concession was still borderline, in regards to financial viability for the Club, it marked the first positive step towards our goal and showed that the members were behind the Clubs strategic direction. Thankfully, the state government has stepped in and taken the broader approach that was necessary in mandating the sensible and sustainable development that is necessary in a time of extreme housing shortage and our site has become part of this process.

Whilst this does not mean that the Club will cease trading for redevelopment in the immediate future, it vindicates the Board's tireless pursuit of the best outcome for a financially sustainable future for Mortdale RSL. I thank Club management, my fellow Board members and, above all the members for their ongoing support of our vision for the future. It is vitally important that we all stay united in this vision to see it through to fruition.

I don't need to tell anyone that "times are tough" and, with this brings great challenges for small to medium sized clubs like ours. I would like to refer you to the financial report, ably composed by our Treasurer Jim Neale. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to commend our hard-working General Manager, Tony Lycakis and his staff for again posting a cash profit which has largely been used to retire historic debt and complete urgent repairs to the Club premises. Whilst I am aware that many will concentrate on the overall loss which includes significant non-cash components such as depreciation, the fact is that the Club continues to pay off debts which have been a hindrance for many years. To do this, we always need the support of the members. I urge all members to attend the Annual General Meeting to demonstrate your support for the Board and management of the Club. Immediately prior to the AGM, Mortdale RSL Sub-Branch will conduct their ANZAC Sunday Service at 10am in the Memorial Park on Boundary Rd., Mortdale. This year, ANZAC Day will occur in the school holidays and the traditional Dawn Service will be hosted by Oatley RSL Sub-Branch. I hope to see a large number of young families in attendance at the service and during the day at our Club where we will be playing two-up and watching the service from Sydney, followed by the traditional AFL and NRL ANZAC Day rivalries. This is an opportunity to remember that our Club continues to commemorate those who served, and those who are serving, because it is not just our Club or our local community, but the whole nation who depend on them.

Geoff Denyer,

*Geoff Denyer*  
President.