

President's Report 2018

Hi everyone

This will be my 7th and final Agm report - including 5 reports as Tournament Organiser. It has been a magnificent journey and I have learned so much about myself, my capabilities, and more importantly my deficiencies.

I recommend anyone here to - just try it. Come onto the committee next year or the year after.

I was not promoted to buying the biscuits until my second year on the committee and from there I became Social Director graduating to hosting in 2008 the 20th Birthday celebrations and the long remembered cruise As, I began feeling the fun, I introduced the themes into our Australia and Anzac Days. Later this led on to St Patrick's and Valentine's Days. Now, with our present and immediate past committees we have a party with most special days. And, I thank them for all the hard work they, and other volunteers do. We may not have a Xmas party, as such, but we sure do party.

I would however, especially like to thank Wendy Mitchell, for all the hard work, and the time she expends on our club. Without her largely unsung efforts, the club, would be in a much poorer position. Wendy is our Teacher, as well as our Master Secretary, a huge and responsible job. In addition to keeping all our clubs spreadsheets, and then from there, publishing our membership details, our inventory details and our Program Book for each year, she volunteers to cook on special days. On top of that Wendy has been publishing our newsletter each month. I thank you again Wendy and now I ask the club- Is there a typist among you who could take on the typing / publishing of our newsletter ?

2017 was our 30th Birthday culminating in an additional one off Red point Day won by Marie Purkiss and Toni Dixon. I hope you all remember back to last August and the fun we had . I also hope some of those events can be incorporated into our future calendars. For those of you who want a reminder, go to our website and look up our Sept. newsletter. It brings back lots of memories.

In 2017 we extended our hosting to staging the GNOT regional Final also in Aug. The first hosting in our new club house. And we were able to invite Michael Wilkinson State GNOT Convener to direct. The CCLC catered but said 'never again'.

We continued to hold the UHMP State Finals in Nov 2017. This time we catered from our new rooms for the first time . The hot chicken, salad and rolls were well received.

We also hosted the Regional Country Teams Final June 2nd & 3rd, this time as a BYO.

Buoyant with those successes we agreed to host the first Regional meeting of a NSWBA Strategic Review. The convenor was the NSWBA Council, chaired by Richard Douglas supported by Councillors , John McIlrath, Rob Ward, and Alan Bustany (our local Outer Metro Zone Councillor). Seven clubs from the Central Coast and Hunter regions attended.

It is great that with our own rooms we can finally take on some Regional responsibilities.

Then came Our Melbourne Cup Day and a new format. We held our sweeps and played in our room then sashayed to the Parkview Room for lunch, our fashion parade and the viewing of the Cup.

Everyone seemed to agree it went well. I hope so, as that seems to be the format for future Special Days (like today), that require food and play.

For Presentation Day, with much effort, I was able to secure The Parkview Room for the whole day, albeit a different arrangement. It seemed to work, although, the food needs to be rethought for next year. Hopefully we can continue to maintain the whole day use of the Parkview Room for that, our Special day.

Bridge for Brains was held in May and we sent \$250. To Alzheimer's research.

Next. our Charity Day fell into place and we were again able to secure the Parkview Room. We raised \$3500, which was distributed equally amongst the 4 local charities selected for 2018. - Wigwam, Pandora, Helping Hands for Headwear & Coast Shelter. Great effort by all – workers and buyers. THANK YOU.

We have held 2 Intra-Club Teams days since my last report. They have been received with mixed reports, but, hopefully with our improved rooms and more experience at holding large events in our rooms we can only improve.

And, that, brings me to report on our new rooms, into which we moved into only 12 months ago on July 28th.

Lets reminisce on how between playing a lot of bridge we have made our new empty rooms habitable (for the 3rd time) and added a bit of glamour. Originally it was hoped that we would not have to do the work, as CCLC were going to do it for us. Unfortunately most things could not wait and so Leon fitted out the office with shelves and benches. The foyer and hall including the floor and all doors (which were in a very sad condition) have been repainted plus one badly marked wall in our playing room by The Griffins and their cohorts. Fans, pictures and the honour board were then positioned. (Approx. 80hrs)

The CCLC repaired the missing tiles in the Ladies toilets, fitted our soap and towel dispensers and finished the plumbing deficits. They have also mounted our trophy cupboards, our extra notice boards in the foyer and, filled-in the missing kitchen wall.

A huge cosmetic difference was made when the CCLC removed the old stoves and shutter from the kitchen, thus allowing The Mackeys to decorate it in a red and white colour scheme. Now that Leon has tiled that missing wall the kitchen is ready for a final working bee. This is to be held in October. Lots of little jobs including decorating the hall and, redecorating some of our playing room. So please be prepared to lend a hand

Lastly the CCLC paid for the both our new Sign and its erection on the exterior of our building.

Still in the pipeline is the air-con., the possibly leveling of our play area and the Signing for our Fire Escapes.

Other introductions we have made this year are the Bill Thomson Trophy and the advertising of our club on the slide show in the Leagues Club .

We have reintroduced the Australia Wide Novice Pairs, Australia Wide Open Pairs, and the State Wide Pairs. So far only the Australia Wide Novice Pairs have been played and gazette and it was thrilling to see Alison Mackey and Margaret Campbell be placed 74th / 1254 in Australia

And, I believe, best of all, is the proposal and introduction by **Julie Sadler** of Supervised Play on Wednesday mornings. It has been a great success and I thank her and her assistant Anne Grayden.

This year we have put a real dent in our capital by buying 16 new sliding chairs. They are great for the older members of our club and very comfortable. Even better, one of our members then anonymously donated 4 of the arm chair type followed by June Thomson buying us 6 more . Thank you ladies and

Thank you Don Holmes who donated \$50 towards refurbishing our First-Aid box

Now for the most important comments from me

I would like to thank Daniel Brian, Fay Toomey, and Randall for their major efforts this year.

I would love to thank my committee Colin Mitchell – Vice President, Anne Grayden – Secretary, Ronnie Ng – Treasurer, Ruth Griffin – Assist. treasurer and social committee member and the other committee members, Julie Sadler, Alison Mackey, David Bowerman and Toni Dixon and Stewart Duxbury our acting equipment officer.

And as for our wonderful Directors, Leon, David, George, Alan, Louis, Ronnie, Matt and Julie how could we manage without them.

Writing this report has reminds me of all the fun times, we have had and, more importantly my dreams for this club.

I know many have come to fruition but I also realize I failed in other endeavours. I apologise. It was not a lack of intent. I think after over 10 years on committee in major positions I just became too tired. I am sorry. But, I thank you for those years and the opportunity to be your President.

Dianne March