

CHAIRPERSON'S 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



As the curtain falls on 2023 it is with much pride that on behalf of my fellow Board of Directors, I am presenting my 8th Annual Report as your Chairperson of our great Club.

2023 as is now normal, has seen your Club again face many challenges such as cost of living pressures, staff shortages and a more than 3 month disruption on our trading floor with the refurbishment project undertaken, externally with our new multi deck car park, porte cochere and covered walkway.

Despite these impositions Diggers again performed well above budgeted expectations and against a variety of Clubs used as a benchmark. Pleasingly, financially our after tax performance surplus was \$1,061,451, and our balance sheet remains exceptionally strong as does our cash in the bank status.

Our past year saw many cosmetic changes to our Club internally and externally to allow us to increase our operational excellence and efficiency to a level that is the expectations of our many members and their guests. It is most pleasing to hear the myriad of comments returning verbally and written as to the magnificent standard of amenities now afforded our patrons.

Diggers also continued our commitment to our local community, the disadvantaged and the vulnerable through a range of in-kind donations, harm minimisation initiatives and the compulsory contributions known as Club Grants which totalled \$190,432 (Cash) \$19,726 (In Kind) during the financial year of 2023. Our ongoing commitment to local sport is legendary and there are a myriad of sporting organisations that remain financially viable simply by way of our Club's commitment to their ongoing success. It is very pleasing to witness when one visits the local sporting facilities on the Coast to see the Diggers The Entrance logo proudly displayed on rugby league referees, cricket players young and old, netballers, AFL players, just to name a few and Diggers' wish is for this to continue as long as financially capable.

Whilst 2023 has been a very difficult year in the employment market, Diggers has been fortunate to maintain a large core group of long term loyal and hardworking staff, that many of the Diggers patrons count as friends and vice versa, our staff and members care about each other. We are very proud of our staff no matter what role they play in making sure the operation happens at a level expected by our patrons 365 days a year, a very big "thank you" to all of you.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the long term management team, who put in many hours with great dedication to ensure the wheel continues to turn, running a club the size of Diggers is no easy task, and our management team make it happen without fuss or fanfare.

Whilst thanking people I must extend my gratitude to my fellow Board members, whose guidance, support and strategic vision has played a crucial role in steering Diggers in the right direction during my tenure, thank you. Diggers The Entrance is an exceptional community and whilst no doubt 2024 will have its share of uncertainties and challenges, the team at the helm will continue to strive towards our long term goals with a full focus on customer satisfaction and financial profitability.

As the curtain opens on a new year, I am very optimistic about Diggers' continued success and growth, the ongoing support of the local community and our visitors, the dedication of our sponsored entities that will fortify our journey.

Thank you and may I close by reminding you all a growing successful club is much more than bricks and mortar and it is you, the member, that makes Diggers The Entrance what it is today. I am extremely proud of the position I hold and extend my wholehearted appreciation to all our members for the support you have shown to myself, the Board of Directors and Management.

Gayle Gribble
Chairperson

