

## Presidents Report 2015/16

Despite having to outlay over \$800,000 on club improvements I am pleased to announce that we have returned a profit of \$210,550 for the year. This is a most pleasing result and congratulations are due to you the members for your continued support throughout the year. The year saw for the first time in our 101 year trading that we now have three ladies on our board and their input has been outstanding and they along with other directors have had to make several hard decisions during the year as we continue to uphold the club's tradition. Your management team of Patrick (CEO) and Phil (SEO) are two of the most competent men in our profession and we are very lucky to have these men in charge.

After 41 years' service to the Armidale City Bowling club I have decided that it is time that I retire from the board of directors. Over this period I have seen many changes, all of which, I feel has led to this club being recognised throughout the industry as a leader. When I first joined as a director the club was under the control of the late Ken Jones (BEM) and the board consisted of 23 members and this figure included the selectors, coach and publicity officer. The meeting room then is now the upstairs kitchen and meetings were held on Friday nights after the raffle. I can remember personalities on the board such as Norm McRae, Jim Extreme, Horry Cashman, Les Edwards, Steve Perlikowski, Jack Chadd, Jack Kelly and others. As the years rolled on the Government decided that if you were 72 years old you had to receive 75% of votes from members present at an annual meeting to be able to hold a position on the committee as it was known then. This rule led to the demise of Ken Jones who had been President for some 40 years straight as the members voted against Ken being allowed to continue on the committee. The meeting then elected the late John Rowlings as the new President and the new committee felt that no person should hold the position of President for more than 3 years running and this ruling is still in operation at present. I was elected president for my first term in 1987 and served in that position in 1988 and 1989. Since then I have held the position in 1994-5-6; 2006-7-8 and 2014 and this year 2015. During my time on the board I have served in most positions and when I sit back and think I realise I have served the club for well over half of my life. I have worked with many boards and you as members should be proud of those people who put their hands up to help form this club into the club it is today. On the management side the late John Wood took over the reins as manager when the club was in financial difficulties and through sound management and many hours of work he turned that deficit into a profit and since 1967 the club has been in the black. I remember talking to John one Saturday and he told me "we had a massive night-we took \$900". As technology changed and John looked towards retirement I was able to entice Phil Wheaton to our club and I always regard this as my biggest "catch". With the technology and Government legislation changing club life John decided to retire and Phil took the reins. We as members should all be aware of the outstanding service the club has received from Phil. His devotion to the position is proof that he was the right man for the job and after taking the reins for some 17 years Phil and the board decided it was time to have support for Phil with the idea of having the ideal replacement for him when he decided he would like to take a step back. In this regard we appointed Patrick Crick as Phil's understudy and after a period Phil informed the board that he was ready to step down from the position of CEO. We then appointed Patrick to the CEO position and gave Phil his new title of Senior Executive Officer. I don't think I need to tell you what Patrick has brought to the club in administration and technology. Our club is the envy of many for having two such capable men in their respective positions. A special thank you to our Office Manager Greg for his help throughout my time on the board. Our events team is to be congratulated as they are responsible for the many weddings and social events we conduct. Over the period I have been on the board I have witnessed many changes and when I think back to the old building

situated between the Burgess Green and Dumaresq Street I realize how far we have progressed in the expansion of the clubs facilities and the ammenties we now offer our members and visitors. I feel very proud to have been associated with the progress. Government legislation means we have to be aware of Club Governance and Work Safety issues and the board has been kept up to date on these changes by attending ClubsNSW seminars. We turned 100 in 2014 and history was created at our last AGM when Gay Reardon and Cheryl Ogilvie were appointed as the first lady directors in the club's history. After the resignation of a director we appointed a third lady, Maree Knight to the board. One area that is to be congratulated is the catering. Since being appointed Head Chef Carl has turned the area from a loss to a healthy profit and he and his staff deserve a big pat on the back. Our green staff and all other staff permanent and casual are to be congratulated for their professionalism. On the greens I have been involved in many state pennant victories and was a member of the 1978 number two side that claimed the clubs first state pennant. I am currently serving my third year on the BowlsNSW State Selection panel and travel widely representing the state. However this is not about me – it's about this great club that I feel I have been privileged to serve and I shall never forget the many friends I have made over the years. I wish the incoming board all the very best and ask the members to give credit to those who give of their time to take up important positions. If you feel you can contribute to the club then put you name up for election.

Richie Clutterbuck

President

Armidale City Bowling Club