

MARCH 2021

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT



Firstly, can we all agree that in 2015 not a single person when asked got the correct answer to “Where do you see yourself in 5 years’ time?” 2020 has certainly been a year no one could have predicted. 2020 saw diggers throw out our initial budget and One Page Plan for a revised version commencing in July 2020 which coincided with the conclusion of the darkest of days in diggers history, that being the complete closure of your club for a 72 day period, a time when less than a skeleton crew remained all on large pay cuts and performing tasks not normally associated with their roles including 7 day a week premises coverage to ensure the safe keeping of all the valuable assets.

Finally 72 days later the call came to allow us to reopen albeit with severe restrictions and Covid-19 requirements that transformed the way diggers normally operates in all aspects of our pre Covid-19 world, with many very difficult decisions being made to ensure provision of the safest and cleanest venue that we could possibly provide, diggers members and guests have had to learn to do things very differently in 2020 from app check ins , social distancing to hand hygiene, remote working and zoom catch ups, and just when restrictions began to lift approaching Xmas, back to the earlier trading restrictions we went for what is traditionally our busiest time of the year.

2020 has been a great challenge but it has also provided diggers an opportunity to refocus, reposition and ensure we are set up for a long standing future.

The diggers Board of Directors & Senior Management sought to make a number of progressive and visionary changes, which whilst incredibly challenging and difficult it has ensured the entire diggers team was able to demonstrate, strength, business minded leadership and a determination to place the very best interests in our members, staff and community.

The process resulted in many expense reductions and operational changes that have made a huge difference to the success of diggers in 2020. These changes are reflective in our financial results in a year when some struggled and a huge percentage lost large sums of money, diggers even allowing for the 72 day closing period produced a net operating profit of \$1,808,325. Digger’s cash position was a great highlight and the 2020 year ended with \$3,558,200 in the bank compared to \$947,594 in 2019. Depreciation for 2020 was \$1,357,876 hence it is with great pride that a \$3,166,201 result is reported, with an EBIDA of 29.67%.

Our commitment to the community continued throughout 2020, albeit due to the forced closure a little reduced from previous years however our direct community contributions including Club Grants, donations, sponsorships and in kind support and much more amounted to \$188,743.74, ensuring diggers remains an active and committed contributor to all things community.

My Board colleagues again deserve a big thank you for their outstanding contribution and commitment to your club. All put in many hours and contributed to decisions that haven’t ever had to be made in the Clubs history, and whilst not all were popular decisions they were the correct ones for these unforeseen times.

To our CEO and Senior Management to the front of house and back of house staff a huge thank you for your outstanding efforts in a very testing year and your ongoing loyalty to the Club, this year’s results don’t happen by accident and they should all be proud of their efforts, and I thank them for same.

Finally and the biggest thank you is saved for you our loyal members and guests, when we reopened in June we had no idea if your support would or would not continue, and it sure has and we are most grateful to all of you for your ongoing support along with all the community organisations and stakeholders who came back to diggers post the Covid-19 closure, we look forward to another successful and hopefully a much better 2021 and Covid-19 free for all of us.

Gayle Gribble
Chairperson

