

# CHAIRPERSON'S 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

**diggers**  
@the entrance

To say 2022 was an exceptional trading year for diggers@the entrance is certainly an understatement, however 2022 also saw Australia face challengers and disruptions on an unprecedented scale, with major flooding in our local area on a number of occasions, which meant that our members and visitors have never needed us more.

It has now been some 6 years since I became your Chairperson, and I am extremely honoured to do so, throughout this time the journey has been a wild ride and a very difficult time for business and the world and the Club Industry. The last 3 years with Covid and flooding and the recent rise in interest rates and cost of living pressures only served to magnify this.

Therefore its exceptionally pleasing to report that thru these tough times including 2022 your Club has continued to become stronger and work towards a very exciting Masterplan. It is with much pleasure that I can announce a history breaking record operating profit of \$4,518,028 a figure never before achieved in the Club's long history. Cashflow has been exceptionally strong and your Club closed off 2022 with \$10m+ in the bank, a long way from the closing cash figure of pre-Covid times at the end of 2019 of \$947,000.

2022 as a result of our trading performance your Board of Directors undertook a number of steps to finalise our Masterplan both internally and site specific as follows:

- i) The gaining of the DA for the development on Lot 4 of the 87 unit Vertical Living Retirement Village, made possible by the finalisation of the sale of the property and the ongoing JV opportunity that this has presented
- ii) The commencement of the transformation of the No 1 bowling green into a multilevel car parking facility due for completion in July 2023. The area will host 104 spaces with adjoining entry to our main foyer
- iii) Commencement of refurbishment works to all our toilet facilities, club external façade, gaming room and port cochere are being undertaken to ensure that you the members are treated to the best most modern facilities possible

Diggers continues to ramp up its community involvement in particular to our sporting sponsorships now sponsoring a record number of external sporting clubs and associations, such as Central Coast Cricket, Central Coast Rugby League Referees, Central Coast Veterans Cricket and many more organisations that now call diggers their home.

Your club is committed to our community and their reason for being and is part of the social fabric of locals everyday life, and its pleasing to see the community got behind this commitment and continue to join the diggers family in droves.

Our relationship with the RSL Sub Branch continues to be a very strong one, we know and appreciate that this remains our prime care and objective and always will be, we continue to operate in unison whilst ensuring the smooth operation of our individual businesses.

Whilst many individuals form the team that produce such a result as achieved in 2022 I would very much wish to thank my fellow Board Members for their experience, counsel and unwavering support and commitment to you the members of diggers, it's not an easy job being a Director in this current club environment and the members are fortunate to have such a strong and united Board upholding the values on which diggers was built.

Obviously whilst the Board played their role it is our fantastic staff both front and back of house that ensures your visit as a member or visitor exceeds your expectations, diggers is extremely fortunate during this period of well documented staff shortages to have some of the best around, diggers is open 365 days a year catering to all needs and our staff continue to excel in their service, quality, and products that you receive that always exceeds industry benchmarks.

Our Management Team also ensured the success of 2022 by overcoming any issue plotting, planning and delivery on all aspects required to guarantee success, we are again very fortunate to have some of the best long term management in the industry. On that note 2022 saw the retirement of our 20 year serving Marketing Manager Christine Haynes for personal reasons. Christine will be very hard to replace and I thank her for her efforts over a long career and wish her the very best in the future.

In closing diggers thanks you for your ongoing support and continued patronage, 2023 is shaping up as the most exciting year in the Club's history, with a lot of changes in place much construction and renovation and in the next couple of years the birth of our magnificent new Lakeview Retirement complex.

Don't forget that a concise version of the 2022 Annual Report is available on the digger's website and a full copy is available by dropping a written note to the CEO by email or mail.

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Finally a great year in 2022 but an even better year is planned for 2023, your Board and Management remain committed to that task.

*Gayle Gribble*  
Chairperson

