



12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## **MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM CHAIRPERSON**

Dear Members,

I thought it would be a good time to update you on what's happening at the Club during this period of uncertainty. Over all it has been a tough year for the Club, but we will definitely be opening when we can, and when this happens, we want all of our valued members back into the Club. We have worked hard to come up with strategies that will place the club in a position to be able to positively come out the other side of this situation and we are confident we have been successful in doing so.

In 2018 the Board decided that something had to be done in order to secure the future of our Club. We took the big decision to start looking into a redevelopment of the Club. After almost 2 years of negotiations we believe that the club is getting closer to achieving an outcome that will be in the best interest of the members. Whilst this has taken quite some time, it has been important that the Board take all steps ensure we have met our due diligence obligations. I will keep you update on this issue in due course.

The Club is still closely monitoring all news in relation to the Covid-19 situation. This also includes news from Clubs NSW and Bowls Australia. Both organisations are working closely with health authorities to set out a course of action for the re-opening of the club and the "limited" commencement of bowls. We will also start planning for the limited resumption of roll ups and practice in line with the latest Bowls NSW information received in recent weeks.

Our General Manager, Angus, has been engaging with all staff to ensure they are being looked after as part of the Job Keeper program. When this is all over, we want our great staff back. Angus is also seeking Government support in many areas including special grants and tax relief.

The Board has made a decision to suspend all membership fees for the time being until there is further clarity on the club's operational status, meaning all members will automatically have their membership status to remain financial and current. When bowls resumes, we may need to pay fees to Bowls NSW for our bowling members, and will then consider our fee structure moving forward. We have also decided that all member's reward points that are currently on member accounts will remain.

Regarding bowling - considering the relatively short time before we start the development, and given that maintaining greens is a very expensive exercise, we have decided at some point we will only operate 2 greens, the synthetic and #3 green. Angus has proposed a possible plan to turn #2 green into an activity space for families and bare foot bowlers. We will be using volunteers to maintain the greens and gardens for the time being.

When you return to the Club you will notice some improvements in the gaming area, TAB, and restaurant. These improvements will ensure we have modern facilities for members and guests for the period between now and when the Club is demolished – possibly not for another 3 to 4 years depending on the progress of the overall development.

We will continue to update everyone as things progress in the coming as the situation progresses.

Ken Carroll

Chairman