

# PRESIDENTS REPORT

Rob Schroeder

August 2021

After successfully dodging all the Covid hot spots to and from all our planned holiday destinations we are back home and in the process of unpacking.

While we were away we spent some time discussing which has been the places we have stayed over years of travel and where we would choose if we only went to one place in the future and although the jury is still out on that decision we do like Iluka NSW as it offers all the things we like doing, Bowling Club with courtesy bus, Fishing, fresh prawns from the trawlers and good friends who we have now camped with for years. In saying that we love our hometown of Eden and wonder why we really need to go anywhere after travelling much of Australia so next year we will most likely only do short trips in and around our home state.

You might ask what has this to do with a Presidents report for our Angling club?

Well as I stated in my last report many of our current Committee have travelled this year and as such there has not been regular monthly meetings, newsletters, monthly dinners, and presentations for all the annual fish winners etc.

This has made me contemplate more than usual as to where our club is heading and what does the future holds if we cannot attract new and younger members who not only want to take on a committee position but who introduce ideas as to what the club needs to change for us to continue into the future, which includes the continuation of our annual competition.

Committee members must be prepared to work all year in preparation to ensure the comp continues to be a successful event and this is often difficult when people have busy work commitments but not impossible if the dedication and will is there.

We are lucky that this year we had some new volunteers over the course of the competition which certainly helped during busy periods and when changes to data entries needed to change but this is only a small part of the bigger picture if we are successful as we were this year.

Many members say, "we always get by" and yes that's been partially true for the past 42 years thanks to the commitment by a few dedicated committee and members (many who do not fish the comp themselves due to the workload) and some very necessary changes to this year's competition rules and fish registrations.

I'm afraid we have a number of very large hurdles we are going to need to get over if next year's competition is to continue and if the club is to continue well into the future:

1. The ever-changing dynamic of Covid 19 and all the financial risks associated with the possibility of needing to cancel a comp at the last minute as much of our financial success of this year will need to spend on further repairs to recently discovered termite damage to the roof structure of our club rooms and water damage to the floor near the kitchen sink.
2. The realisation from some of the current committee that the enthusiasm to run the comp is waning and the ability to devote so much valuable time.
3. After numerous discussions and letters to members this year's committee and previous committees receive little attendance and feedback as to what members want from the club.
  - Monthly dinners are not supported as in the past and many have had to be cancelled due to lack of response.
  - Organised weekend fishing trips away have been poorly supported but intend to re commence shortly.
  - Limited numbers of members participate in Fish Of The Month which I must confess includes myself mainly due to my lack of knowledge as to how or where to catch some of the monthly species. I would also rather have all fish entries be done by measure rather than weight which would support more catch and release and negate the need to organise having fish weighed in at the club or elsewhere. Something else for the next committee to consider.
  - Kids Gone Fishing Days have not introduced new families to the club despite offering free family membership for the first year.
4. Not all committee positions have been filled now for a number of years and at this stage we have had one recent resignation from the current committee and notification that another member will not be standing again at our next AGM which is scheduled for October. Should the members wish I will consider standing for President for one more year and hope that other nominations are received when positions are declared vacant.

As your current President I believe that due to the current uncertainty of the spread and its containment I have put a temporary hold on our generous sponsors continuing with putting together the boat package until our next committee meeting for further discussion.

If you are following news reports regarding Covid from many of the Infection Control experts there will continue to be restrictions on movement for people throughout Australia for at least a minimum of six months which could be a real disadvantage to competition registrations and how the next comp would need to operate.

We have been extremely lucky to have been able to hold the last two competitions due to bush fires and covid 19 and as your committee we need to think carefully if we are to take the risk in what I see as troubling times.

As much as our club somewhat relies on revenue from our annual competition to operate, I'm positive that other avenues of income could be sourced should that ever be necessary.

So having said all this I would like to remind all members that they are welcome to attend committee meetings and to contribute to discussions in regard to the club's future and how we would like to see the club function into the future.

A reminder that all Membership's for 2021/2022 are now due and forms are available on our web page or please send an email request to the Secretary and one will be emailed to you or they will be available at the next General Meeting.

**The next scheduled General Meeting will be Wednesday August 18<sup>th</sup> commencing at 5.15pm at our Club House and welcome members to attend.**

The July/August Newsletter is being compiled and please email our secretary ([secretaryeafc@iinet.net.au](mailto:secretaryeafc@iinet.net.au)) with any submissions, information or ideas (and fish pic's) that you have wish to be included.