

## Presidents Annual Report - October 2021

Firstly, I would like to thank all committee members who have supported me and other committee members in what has been a successful year (and a bit) as far as our Annual Competition goes and achieving many other changes and projects around the club.

It has been a difficult year in not being able to plan trips away, monthly dinners, committee meetings and award presentations. This has been for main two reasons.

1. Many of our committee decided to travel over the winter months which meant having meetings was not practical and monthly newsletters became bimonthly. All should be recognised for their efforts as they continued to keep the Club active.

Whilst away Pam continued with managing the unforeseen resubmissions for our grant to ensure that we received payment for the invoices received from the builder and the additional evidence requested to prove all works were completed and paid for by the club.

She also kept us all informed, with emails and updating our digital platforms with the FOM results forwarded by Gordon and Fishing Reports from Bob Wilcox, which were greatly appreciated.

Val continued to ensure that the financial reporting and ongoing invoices were being paid and utilised Eddy's prowess back at home to complete required monetary business.

I'd also like to thank Eddy, Terry and Adam for taking my constant phone calls meeting with contractors during the installation of a new roller door and the security cameras and recording equipment.

2. The increase in restrictions due to the new strain of Covid which unfortunately has led in part to the decision to cancel next years Annual Fishing Competition although our committee is still considering some form of shortened competition to coincide with the Victorian long weekend in March if situations allow.

This would give our local members (and possibly our Victorian participants) a chance to get together and compete in some form or another.

Luckily our club is in a good financial position that we are not totally reliant on the profits from holding the competition next year thanks to this year's comp being the most profitable in the clubs history which I believe was not only due to fisho's being not restricted by lock down from covid and keen to get away, but also the changes introduced by combing some species of fish as a single entry and a lucky draw prize for the salmon and tailor category.

The photographing and texting of fish species registrations meant that anglers were not required to come to the clubrooms to weigh in.

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We must also recognise and acknowledge the efforts of our major sponsors, Sapphire Marine & Auto, Mad Dog Boats, Honda Marine, Garmin Electronics, Savwinch, Form A Sign and our loyal local businesses which contributed to this year's success.

Hopefully we can hold a competition in 2023 and continue this long-standing event to benefit not only our members and participants but the local community taking into consideration my comments to follow:

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I have spent some time reading meeting minutes dated back to 2016 and would like to note my following observations to try and consider what needs to change for the future of this club.

1. There is a pattern of unfilled committee positions and changes to elected executive positions prior to the AGM's most likely due to personal disagreements which has been a disappointing part of the club's culture.
2. Minutes also reflect that the committees have been and still are totally focussed on the running of the competition and mentions the work and time frames involved by a minority group.
3. That to try and increase the number of members participating in Fish Of The Month, prize monies were increased as an incentive which does not appear to have been successful and poses an ongoing financial obligation for the club although it is affordable at this stage.
4. Suggested changes were tabled in 2016 to simplify fish recording and promote catch and release by accepting photograph records of fish entries and to allow entry forms to be recorded on a mobile phone.

These suggestions were not actioned at the time and have now been adopted by this year's committee some five years later. This indicates that past committees were not recognising the change in amateur fishing practices and the need to include simple technology such as the mobile phone and the internet for members that were conversant with these technologies at that time.

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I have had a suggestion from a club member that instead of having "Fish Of The Month" that the club holds a weekend called "Fish OFF for the month".

This would be held from the club rooms and start with a and early morning breaky on the Saturday morning held on Sunday with a BBQ and presentations to the winners.

This idea personally appeals to me as it means we would all be fishing and socialising together promoting our club by all our boats out on the water identifiable by our new logo boat stickers and better utilises our clubrooms and facilities. I would also like to see more lucky draw prizes rather than always rewarding the biggest fish captures.

I would also suggest that given we have members travelling and some living outside our designated fishing boundaries that there be a greater emphasis on our "Out of Designated Water's" challenge with monthly recognition and possibly prize money or sponsors vouchers awarded.

I encourage other members also come forward with such ideas for the next committee to consider making our club more Inclusive rather than Exclusive in the hope we attract more new and younger members.

We need to encourage younger people into the club by focussing on social fishing activities and sharing fishing techniques and proven fishing locations.

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My time on the committee over the past two years and the support I have received have seen the following changes.

- Change of club logo
- Grant funding (\$69,000) for major building repairs due to termite damage and improvements which included a disabled toilet and bathroom up grades. This involved liaising with local council, regional and federal politicians and volumes of paperwork, letters, community meetings which was required to meet the strict criteria required for the grant.
- Purchase and installation of a shipping container for more appropriate and lockable storage.
- Purchase and installation of additional seating outside the club rooms. Many thanks to those who helped to install and an even bigger thanks to Max Cartledge for preparing and painting.
- Sale of wooden log seating which in involved white ant infestation
- Introduction of more updated club merchandise for sale at the annual competition
  - Long sleeve fishing shirts
  - Bucket hats
  - Boat logo stickers.
  - Marlin measures
- Changes to the rules and fish categories for the annual competition and the introduction of online computer entries doing away with the paperwork.
- More exposure for our sponsors of the major boat package and competition.
- More emphasis on online entries for our annual competition and the Redevelopment of the club web site and Facebook pages
- Changes and corrections to the club's constitution and updating the club's handbook to reflect those changes.
- Welcome letters to new members and newsletters sent to sponsors.
- Gardens re-established
- Stormwater drains replaced and overflow pits installed.
- And we must thank Adam for his relentless efforts in collecting bottles and cans from around town and making donations back to the club.

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In summarising this annual report and possibly reflecting on previous monthly reporting I would like to emphasise that we need to recognise ongoing changes can be a positive improvement to our club and we should not accept without constructive consultation that the old way is always the best way and I base this on what has been achieved and changed for the better in a relative short space of time.

We need to attract more younger committee representation if we are to continue with our annual fishing competition in the current format as once the more mature are no longer able to (or worn out) there may not be a generation as enthusiastic unless there is a reinvention of the club to attract young families.

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Recently some of my anxiety issues have returned and will require different cognitive approaches to ensure my health improves and that I'm able continue to perform my current role as President.

This is part of my personal make up and is not a reflection on the stresses of holding this position as it has also been extremely rewarding as the stressors in my case are self-induced.

This will mean that I need to reconsider my approach to this role and how much time I dedicate to the position should I submit a nomination and be re-elected. Many of this year's committee and some of my personal friends and members know that I rarely stop thinking on how I can be more beneficial in the development of this club and it has consumed much of my time in the past two years. It has also meant that I have placed additional pressure on Pam's role due to constantly bouncing ideas off her and giving her additional work to do given her position as live in Secretary.

In conclusion, changing nothing is easy, doing nothing is even easier, offering to assist without being asked is commitment, picking up the phone to discuss concerns and ideas with a President or a committee member prior to scheduled meetings is working together, forgiving past disagreements and conflicts is essential, moving forward is a must!

Rob Schroeder