

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE 2016/2017**

It gives me great pleasure to give my third President's Report, especially with so many positive things to report on. Before I proceed, I would like to thank all our members for the support you have given my committee and me over the last 12 months.

As you will hear from our Treasurer, Ray Matczak, 2016/17 has been an extremely successful financial year for the Club. For this, I must thank the three representatives from the Mercury Group, David Baldi, Mick Kelly, Travis Wallace and our Manager, Andrea Tournier for their guidance and advice, especially in the area of finance.

I would also like to thank our dedicated Bar and Maintenance staff for their hard work and commitment to the White Eagle House.

We are proud of the fact that our Club continues to sponsor and support the Breakwater Eagles Soccer Club, the Men's and Women's Dart Teams, and Pool Teams. We are also proud that we continue to provide our facilities each week, free of charge, to the three Polish Senior Citizens groups and the Jukebox Rockers.

I must make special mention of our demonstrated commitment to the Breakwater Eagles Soccer Club. Our Secretary, Henry Szkuta, last month submitted an application to the Commonwealth Government for a grant to install soccer lights on the two junior soccer fields. The cost of the project will be \$32,000. If our submission is successful, the Government will contribute \$16,000 and the PCA will commit the other \$16,000 towards the project.

I must thank all the members of our "Krakowiak" Dance Ensemble for their dedication to promoting Polish culture in the community. I greatly appreciate their enthusiasm and their attendance each week for dance practices.

The PCA is also proud to continue to support and work with the three Polish seniors groups who run their activities each week at the White Eagle House.

The PCA has renewed the contract for Johnny's & Marti's Bistro. During the last 12 months, the patronage of the Bistro has been steadily increasing. Comments on our Facebook have been extremely positive. Both John and Martin, the Bistro operators, and the Committee are pleased with the outcome.

We have also re-signed the leasing contract with GSODA for another five years. GSODA uses the back building for rehearsals for their theatrical performances and for storing their costumes and stage props. Last month the Committee gave GSODA permission to construct a building next to the building they are currently using. The number of participants has increased and they are in need of extra rehearsal space.

During the last financial year, we upgraded and replaced 9 gaming machines. This has had a positive impact on our gaming revenue and hence our overall profits.

With regard to Gaming Machines, the Government announced last month that it would not be increasing the number of Gaming Entitlements (Poker Machines) in Victoria during the period from 2022 to 2042. The PCA Committee will have its last chance to decide in February 2018 whether we wish to continue having poker machines at our Club and, if we do, whether we wish to purchase more Gaming Entitlements, currently we only have 35. Henry will report on this in detail later in the meeting.

Now that our Club is making a profit in all its operational areas, the Committee will be working to develop a vision for the future of the White Eagle House. This will include expansion of our facilities, broadening our membership base by placing a greater focus on sporting partnerships, including Breakwater Eagles Soccer Club. We will have more to say on this during this financial year as we begin our work on improving the Club.

During the year, we ran many very successful functions:

- Each week during the soccer season, the Breakwater Eagles Soccer Team uses our sporting facilities and hence encourages a greater patronage of our venue. We are also very proud of the achievements of the nine Breakwater Eagles Soccer Teams. We greatly appreciate the commitment and enthusiasm of the Soccer Management Group and we very much look forward to working with it during the 2018 soccer season. I am very pleased that the PCA is now in a better financial position to strongly demonstrate its commitment to the Soccer Club by allocating more resources to the Breakwater Eagles Soccer Club during the next season. In this way, we will continue to promote soccer and to encourage more participants, especially the young boys and girls in our community, to join the Soccer Club.

Furthermore, now that we have set up a successful White Eagle website, we will invite the Soccer Club to post information and achievements of the Breakwater Eagles Soccer Club on this Website so that achievements can be shared by all members.

- We held a food stall at the Pako Festa, where we raised \$3000 and our Dancing Group, "Krakowiak" took part in the entertaining activities.
- We held successful dances which were supported well by members and their friends
- Our traditional Polish Christmas Eve function continued to be supported by our community
- National Day celebrations were held in November and May
- Unveiling and blessing of the SPK (Polish Ex-servicemen's Association in Geelong) plaque. The plaque was laid at the White Eagle House venue in dedication to the contribution made over the past 53 years by members of SPK to the Polish community in Geelong. Mr Max Nadolski, the current and longest serving SPK President, officially unveiled the plaque on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee members, whose term on the current Committee expires today, for their hard work and their contribution to the betterment of our Club. I wish them the very best if they are re-nominating and standing for election today. I would be proud to have them continuing their service on my Committee.

**Grazyna Brzostowski**

President

Polish Community Association in Geelong Inc.

6<sup>th</sup> October 2017