

CHAIRPERSON'S 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



It is my pleasure to again present the Chairperson's Report for the financial year ended 2025. This year has been significant for Diggers The Entrance, marked not only by strong operational performance but by major strategic developments that will shape the club's future for decades to come. Despite the evolving economic environment within the hospitality and club sectors, we continued to deliver value for our members while advancing transformative projects that strengthen our long-term vision.

Club Performance and Operations

Diggers has recorded another strong trading performance throughout 2025 across all core operational areas which resulted in a trading profit of \$1,629,909. Support from our loyal members has remained strong, and we continued to invest in service improvements, food and beverage offerings, entertainment, and general club amenity. Enhancements to internal systems and operational processes delivered improvements in efficiency and helped ensure we remain well positioned for the substantial development activity ahead.

Major Future Developments

2025 marked the beginning of one of the most exciting eras in the Club's history.

87-Unit Over 55s Village

We are proud to confirm that our 87-unit Over 55s Village is now officially released for off-the-plan sales, marking a major milestone in this long-term strategic project. This innovative senior living community will provide high-quality, modern accommodation designed to support independent lifestyle choices for residents.

Construction is scheduled to commence in 2026 and given the strong early off the plan sales and the planning and marketing phases reinforces the significant benefit this development will bring to both the Club and the wider community.

\$5 Million Club Renovation Program

In addition, the Board approved a \$5 million renovation and enhancement program, further strengthening the Club's appeal and member experience. This major investment includes:

- A revitalised outdoor dining precinct
- Purpose-built pickleball courts
- Upgraded and refreshed bowling greens
- A new carpark to support increased visitation

These upgrades will expand our recreational offerings, enhance accessibility, and ensure Diggers The Entrance continues to serve as a vibrant social hub for members, families, and visitors alike, completion of these works is due by March 2026.

Leadership Transition: Farewell to Stephen Byfield and Welcome to Michael Kowaliw

A key milestone this year was the retirement of our long-serving Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Byfield of 20 years standing and 47+ years in total.

Stephen has played a pivotal role in shaping Diggers into the respected and dynamic club it is today. His leadership, commitment, and steady vision have been invaluable, particularly through periods of change and growth. On behalf of the Board, our Staff, and our membership, I extend our sincere gratitude and warmest wishes to Stephen as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

Following a comprehensive recruitment process, the Board of Directors made the decision to recruit from within, and we are delighted to welcome Michael Kowaliw our former COO as our new Chief Executive Officer. Michael brings extensive experience across Diggers operations, and his 20+ years of leadership will be helpful in ensuring Diggers continued success. His fresh perspective, passion for community engagement, and commitment to delivering exceptional member experiences will guide the Club confidently into its next chapter.

People and Culture

Our staff continue to be our greatest strengths. Throughout 2025, we prioritised training, multi skilling and professional development, and wellbeing, ensuring we maintain a motivated and highly skilled workforce. I would like to acknowledge our entire team for their dedication and professionalism, particularly during this year of major change and strategic planning.

Governance and Compliance

The Board upheld strong governance and compliance practices throughout the year, with ongoing oversight of financial management, risk frameworks, and regulatory obligations. As the Club moves into a period of significant development activity, governance remains central to ensuring responsible and sustainable progress.

Community and Member Engagement

Diggers The Entrance remains deeply committed to supporting our local community. We continued to invest in community programs thru the Club Grants program and again committed \$200,211.40 to the cause. sporting groups also benefited greatly with myriads of teams wearing the Diggers logo veterans' initiatives, and charitable organisations also formed part of this support. Our members remain central to every decision we make, and their feedback continues to prove invaluable as we continue to grow and evolve.

Looking Ahead

As we enter 2026, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and excitement. The combination of major development activity, new leadership, and ongoing investment in Diggers facilities positions your Club for an exceptional future. Our focus remains firmly on delivering a welcoming environment, strong financial management, and a club that our members are proud to call their own.

Acknowledgements

May I also take the opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow Directors, our Management Team, and all Staff both front and back of house for their continued commitment to Diggers ongoing success. I also thank our loyal members for their ongoing support, your patronage and involvement are the foundation of everything we do.

Together, we look forward to another year of growth, progress, and community support here at Diggers The Entrance.

Gayle Gribble
Chairperson

