

## **Presidents Report** - attaching to the AGM 2017 Minutes.

Dianne Hodges wrote:

"As you all know this is my last AGM of President of the club. I first joined the Board in 2004 when Lorraine De Net was President and I became Membership Secretary for a number of years. Later I became Provedore and for the last three years I have really enjoyed being President of this wonderful club.

I would like to thank all the board members who have served on the board during my time as President. I value the contribution made by all of you. This year again we have had a hard-working board and I would like to thank Philip Roberts, our current Vice-President and President-elect and Legal Advisor, Julie Wicks our hard-working Secretary, Paul Brake who has been a great Treasurer, Neil Raward, who has been our Tournament Director and who is an endless font of knowledge and tirelessly works for the club, Tony Berger who is an amazing handy-man and organiser of building projects, Lynley Jenkins, half of our fantastic teaching team, Odette Hall who is a part of many projects in the club and also our Club Recorder, Lance Workman who will take over as Treasurer from Paul in January, Lesley Sutherland who has brilliantly taken on the role of librarian, and Jane Swanson and Margaret Williamson. Thank you all for your support and hard work this year.

Of course we have many other hard-working volunteers who keep the club running smoothly. I would like to thank our many Directors - Neil Raward, Eva Berger, John Glennie, Cecily Critchley, Merle Bogatie, Grace Henry, Alan Jones, Margaret Pisko, Dot Piddington, Tom and Edda Strong, Ruth Young, Kathy Johnson, and Paul and Jessica Brake for the time they all put into our bridge sessions. Our Dealing Team - John Glennie, Jeff Wicks, Trevor Fletcher and Ruth Young, our office staff headed by Marlene Dwyer who works tirelessly for the club, Sue Herse, our Membership Secretary, Eva Berger our Masterpoints Secretary, Margaret Pisko our Chief Scorer, and all the other volunteers who keep this club operating daily. Krystyna Homik continues to look after our club sponsorships and does an excellent job at this. Cecily Critchley and Lynley Jenkins continue to do an amazing job as our club teachers, running lessons for beginners, refresher lessons, workshops and Support with Play. They have increased our club numbers and are great advocates for our newer members. Dot Piddington has done a wonderful job as Congress Convenor and I thank you so much Dot for your hard work. Jim and Shelly Moodie and Neil Raward are great partnership arrangers and many thanks to Cheryl Miller who is now our club Welfare Officer. I would like to also thank Margaret Pisko, Tom Strong and Ruth Young for representing the club on the Zone Committee. Ruth is standing down so many thanks Ruth for your work for the club. We have many other volunteers who continue to do their own jobs in the club keeping it running well and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. Please join me in thanking all our wonderful volunteers.

I would also like to thank Chris Smith and Carole Millar who continue to do an outstanding job in the kitchen, and are always obliging and helpful to us all.

And of course all our members. Thank you all for your kind words and support during my presidency. We have a great community feeling in this club - I love playing bridge but more than that I love the friendships and fellowship this

club encourages. We help and support each other through good times and bad and that is what a good club does. Thank you all for turning up and playing regularly. Our attendance numbers are great and we continue to have excellent numbers at our congresses and club events.

The Board and particularly Tony Berger have continued to work hard on new projects for the club during the last year. The library is up and running and being well used by members. Thank you Lynley, Cecily, and Lesley for your work with this. The library and teaching computer is set up adjacent to the library and a similar shutter to the new one in the kitchen and the one at the window in the office keeps that area safe.

We replaced the water cooler during the year and Tony has now completed converting all the lighting in the club to LED lighting that is cheaper to run. He has also finished the enhanced security lighting outside the club and we have more security cameras installed. We also have a doorbell so we can lock the club during sessions for increased safety to members. We are also about to replace the wire fence between us and the Telstra property with a colour-bond fence for better security.

Replacing some computers in the club and getting our smart TV up and running has been another big job this year. Phil Roberts oversaw this job with help from John Glennie and our IT firm. Thank you both for your hard work.

We have long discussed replacing our very old side tables and this year we did. We donated our old ones to QCBC in Brisbane and they were grateful. We also added some new sideboards for extra storage in the club. Thank you Odette Hall for your great shopping skills.

Odette has also been very generous in donating the money to finally build a cover over our entrance ramp. This will make it so much easier, especially for our older members to get into the club in rainy weather. At the side of the club we have provided a waterproof sail for our smokers to smoke out of the rain. I would like to remind smokers that that side of the club is the only area to smoke and please make sure you close the sliding door to stop smoke coming in.

Another change we have made for the better is to have non-playing directors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. This decision has proved to be a very popular one with members with play moving faster. Thank you to the Directors who have taken on this role, especially our regulars, Eva, John and Neil.

Thank you all for making my three years as President the pleasure it has been. I will stay on the Board for now and continue as *Provedore* with help from Angeline Christie. I will also join the Zone Committee and represent our club with Tom and Margaret.

Jane Swanson and Margaret Williamson are stepping down from the board and I thank them for their contribution. Julian Egerton-Vernon is joining the board and we look forward to having him on board. We will have one position vacant if anyone wants to contribute their time and skills.

Once again it has been a busy and productive year for the club and once again we celebrate the fascinating and addictive game of bridge".