

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2007

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Club Goonellabah I would like to present the Presidents Report for the year ended 30 September 2007.

Another year has passed and Club Goonellabah continues to grow. With many challenges faced by the Club during the year, Club Goonellabah has traded relatively well.

Disappointingly, the Club had an operating loss for the year of \$18051. This amount will undoubtedly be compared with the profit of \$32000 something in 2006 and therefore it doesn't look good. However, all's not that bad! The 2007 loss has mainly arisen because of the downturn in bar trading and a big investment in the refurbishment of the interior of the club. I have found it extremely satisfying to hear the positive comments from members and guests alike, complimenting the contemporary new look of the club's interior. We didn't have a torridly hot summer to test the new air conditioning system, but I guarantee it will handle the hot weather when it returns. The cost of the refurbishment was in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range. I would like to thank the Sec/Manager, Sue McCarthy and her staff for a tremendous job all year, especially during the refurbishment period. Thanks very much.

The Club has survived, and will continue to progress, since the introduction half way through last year of the Smoke Free Environment Act, which banned smoking in all indoor areas. The Club is adequately catering for all members and visitors with the outdoor smoking area on the verandah.

The core business of the Club is, of course, soccer. Football is the new and highly-favoured name for soccer and therefore to keep up with the times, the new name for the soccer club is Goonellabah Football Club. This name change will elevate the football club into the 21 century where the game is known and referred to globally as "football". The name "soccer" is now "old school" and frowned upon.

Last season saw the Premier team finish on a high note with a barn-storming run into the semis, only to miss out at the last moment, in sensational fashion. Congratulations to coach Brendon Logan and his assistants. 2007 was very successful considering the loss of players for various reasons during the season. Congratulations to all teams from 2007 – mens, womens, girls and boys. In 2008 many new coaches and assistants will be involved with our teams. I welcome them and thank them. I would like to make special mention and welcome to Peter Ware the new Premier Mens coach and Chris Layland the new Senior Womens coach. Everyone, I'm sure is very excited about these appointments. Best of luck to them and all the players.

The club secured a large grant from LCC towards the end of 2006 to upgrade fencing and field lighting. The fencing component of this grant has been completed and is an excellent asset to the Club. The lights are well underway and we look forward to their completion soon. Now to the future. The current board has identified two areas of immediate need, which, hopefully, the new board will also consider important and necessary to concentrate on. These areas of need are the refurbishment, or complete rebuilding of the Club's kitchen. This project may even require the complete rebuilding to create a modern and appealing bistro. The second area of need is the construction of new fences on WP1. This is the Club's main field and is the showpiece during the football season. These two areas of need require immediate attention and I urge the new board to embrace them.

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Board of Club Goonellabah for a great job during 2007. Well done! The board has worked with enthusiasm. It is time for the President to "pass the baton on" and I wish the next President and the Board all the very best. Lastly, thanks to the members for the support given to me over the past three years at the helm. I'm hoping I can assist the new President in 2008 in the capacity of an Ordinary Board member. Thank You.