

KIAMA & DISTRICT BRIDGE CLUB

Report to the 2016 Annual General Meeting

I have no hesitation in declaring the past year to be a successful one for our club.

For me, the standout achievement was the introduction of three new directors. Dawn Kaehler, Richard Warren and Ken Horne have all voluntarily completed the qualification requirements for directors and have taken up the challenge of running bridge sessions. Dawn has become the regular Saturday director, while Ken and Richard have been looking after Tuesdays. This has been a great outcome for the club and has provided respite for Vonnie, Michael, Wayne, Ann and me. Bill Lochhead, after many years of service to our club, has eased out of the director role (but doesn't fail to keep us on our toes). The club owes a debt of gratitude to Bill, for which I formally thank him.

Our teachers, Nerelle and Ann, have introduced many new members to the club and have nurtured them through their development into confident players. The club initiative to run a series of 'transfer sessions' to ease new players into full sessions was well received. A number of experienced players gave generously of their time to ensure the success of that program.

Meanwhile, technology continues to offer us ways to reduce our manual effort while reducing the risk of human error. Chris Huddle has automated the competitions for annual trophies and members can now view the progress of these competitions online. Also, masterpoints are now being collated and submitted directly, without the need for manual recording and emailing.

I have always been impressed with the amount of support the committee receives from ordinary members who take up voluntary roles to assist in running the club. We are grateful for those involved in web administration, masterpointing, card dealing, household duties, quiche nights, purchasing, spare Thursday players, etcetera. This is the strength of our club and the reason why we continue to grow.

We now have over 200 members, of which 172 are home club members.

In fact, our growth has resulted in more income from table fees than budgeted, resulting in a very healthy balance sheet. The attached financial report shows that we have a balance of some \$46,000 in cash assets. I congratulate treasurers, current and past, for budgeting to accumulate a surplus for future needs. Anticipated extraordinary expenditure items within the next few years include internal painting, replacement of furniture and electrical equipment. We are now well placed to meet these costs as they arise. As an example, the replacement cost of 80 chairs is estimated to be about \$16,000.

Conversely, in order to effectively contain this surplus and return some equity to members, the committee has proposed some initiatives including discount on early payment of annual fees (this also should reduce the treasurer's burden in chasing outstanding fees) and elimination of table fees for the first week of each quarter. These proposals will be subject to the consideration of the incoming committee, of course, and will need to be monitored as the year progresses.

It has been a pleasure to work with the committee of 2015/16. I thank them sincerely for their cooperation and efficiency. Allow me to specially acknowledge the efforts of our secretary, Wayne, who above all others keeps the club running smoothly and maintains an information exchange with the members.

I wish the incoming committee a fruitful and rewarding year.

John Hetherington, President 2015/16