

MORUYA JOCKEY CLUB LTD

ABN 51 003 266 260

Where the Turf Meets the Surf

Chairman's Report for 2021

It is my pleasure to present to you my report for the 2020-21 F.Y. and what a memorable year it has been. Your Board had planned so much, enthusiasm and optimism were high, and there was much hope that the Covid-19 pandemic would cease to significantly affect our lives and the operations of the racecourse and MJC.

As I write, restrictions are still in place, but life is slowly returning to normal. The racecourse will come alive for the Narooma Cup meeting on 19th December and it will be one to remember. There will be a capacity crowd, the Narooma Cup and the Christmas Community Cup will be contested and the happiness and enthusiasm of the crowd will reflect the facts that the worst of the pandemic is over, that Christmas is upon us, and racing as we know it, is back bigger and better than ever, in Moruya.

Net profit for the year was \$166,548, an outstanding result given the restrictions imposed by the Pandemic. Profit is down from that of 2020 and the Financial Report makes clear the reasons.

Number of meetings with restricted crowd numbers: 5

Number of meetings with no crowd: 1

Number of meetings washed out: 1

It was strange indeed to be present on the days with no crowd and it was something I hope never occurs again; on the positive side, Racing NSW, by its foresight and actions, ensured that Thoroughbred racing continued in metropolitan and country NSW and we congratulate Mr. V'landys and his team on their success.

As previously advised, MJC is receiving significant and much appreciated NSW Government funding under the Covid-19 Recovery provisions, to help finance our major capital works program, such money to be spent in the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. While the major works are still to be commenced, you will notice significant changes around the course; The Multi Purpose Centre overlooking the enclosure has been completed and on race days it will be used by participants (trainers and connections) and some sponsors when required. Winning connections will enjoy the facilities of a special area in which to view the replay of the race and to enjoy the hospitality of the Club. George Pisula, one of our volunteer workers has produced some truly eye-catching furniture for the building; thank you George.

Ten new race day stalls have been erected, reducing congestion and accommodation pressures on our bigger days, when well over 100 horses will be on course. A new walking area for horses will be constructed, new hose down facilities are now operating, one with warm water for those cold winter mornings. The course proper and training tracks are maintained to a very high standard, being continually assessed and worked on as required, by our track staff led by Scott Ibel and Luke Mikula.

A contract for the construction of a kangaroo exclusion fence has been let and materials are being sourced and ordered to lock in price and delivery dates. This is a major and expensive undertaking and Racing NSW Country will supply the majority of the funding on the usual 80/20 basis.

The extensive Scheduled Works Program will be overseen by a Project Manager and he will advise the building subcommittee (Pegasus Committee) and the Board as work progresses.

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For too long the Board has been frustrated by the lack of progress on any of the major work but as always, we are optimistic; work will commence in the first quarter of the new year we hope. Membership remains strong and we thank all our Members for their patience and loyalty. Soon you will be rewarded because the Members will be exclusively for Members and guests, with participants on the day using their new Centre overlooking the enclosure. Board Members, Jan Carter, whose long service to the Club was recognised by the granting of Life Membership, and Marian Pearson, resigned at the last AGM and we thank them both for their contributions to the success of MJC.

Ken Brown, our Executive Officer, is taking the Club to a new level; he shares the optimism and “can do” attitude of the Board and by his communication skills, electronic and personal, and excellent work ethic, he gets the job done. His staff, paid and voluntary have responded to his approach, and the Club is the better for their work.

To our sponsors, new and old, thank you for your support during Covid-19. To our friends in the Rotary Clubs of Moruya and in Batemans Bay and Narooma, thank you for the privilege of working with you to provide so much for the communities of the Eurobodalla.

It remains to wish all, Successful Punting and a Very Merry Christmas.

Peter Atkinson.