

## **Welcome and Introduction**

Welcome Club patron; Life Members; active, associate and junior surf members; Board colleagues, Committee Members, sponsors; friends and supporters of the Whangamata Surf Lifesaving Club to our 71st Annual AGM.

It is my honour as acting Club President to present the 2019/20 President's report.

It has certainly been an interesting 8 months as interim chair. From seeing up-close the sheer amount of activity that goes on around the Club over summer, to working-through funding and operational challenges related to Covid19.

I say interesting rather than challenging because the Board and I have been able to rely on a highly resilient financial, governance and operational structure put together by previous Boards' and members over a number of years. More about that later.

I have also had the benefit of strong support from my fellow Board members; Committee members and our Club Manager, as well as advice and counsel (both requested and unsolicited!) from former board members and other senior members of the Club. Passion for the Club certainly remains in good health! Thank you all.

In particular, I would like to call out the contribution of our immediate past-president Nathan Hight to refining, re-shaping and enhancing those structures under his stewardship of the Club and in many Club roles over the years.

## **Looking Forward**

In view of the unusual times, I thought I'd start with talking about what 2020/21 will look like for the Club.

We intend to run all our key programs in 2020/2021, albeit some in a modified form. We see this as critical from a club sustainability and culture perspective. As you can appreciate, life guarding activities and operations will be prioritised – they are our core purpose.

From a financial perspective, there is no doubt that a number of our traditional sources of income will be under pressure this year as community trusts and our sponsors grapple with the financial impacts of Covid19 on their operations. We have also lost a chunk of our off-season accommodation income.

That said, the Club has considerable reserves, built up over many years, to ensure that key activities can continue to be offered when funding is stretched. In terms of capital expenditure, this is largely funded by grants so will be constrained unless essential. Thankfully, due to a program of asset renewal over the last few years (funded by grants, donations and sponsorships), our core assets are in good condition.

Lisa will cover some of these points in a bit more detail in her update as Finance director.

In June/July the Board will be looking at its budget and forecast for 2020/21 in conjunction with the operational Committees. We will be looking to shape up programs in such a way as we can offer the full Whanga experience whilst being prudent about the use of our hard-earned reserves. While this review will have a financial focus on costs and income, we will also be looking at what programs look like in the Covid19 environment as we expect some "level" of Covid19 operational restrictions will

be in place this summer. We will look to use some of the remote-working tools we have all become familiar with over lock-down to facilitate these sessions; as well as for training purposes.

Remaining on financial themes, all of you will be aware that in the recent budget SLSNZ has been successful in obtaining Government funding. The details of this funding remain to be finalised and we have started that engagement with SLSNZ.

As it stands today, it appears that clubs will receive an annual contribution to core lifeguarding operational costs, together with access to a capital/building fund. While this will give us certainty for a base level of activities, we still need to retain and grow our funding sources to enable us to do all we want to do going forward. Clearly, receiving public money will mean ensuring we maintain good controls and processes - both financial and operational. Hopefully any new obligations will be pragmatic and practical for small volunteer managed organisations.

In terms of the Board's priorities for 2020/21, they will continue to focus on things that support the Club's purpose; strategic plan and values – which were re-visited and endorsed via a well attended strategy day in mid-2019. These focus areas are: (a) the diversification and sustainability of funding sources; (b) working on the on-going improvement and cohesion of the delivery of the Whanga experience programs with our Committees; and (c) ensuring that experience is well communicated to stakeholders; safe and compliant – via appropriate policies, procedures and tools.

2020/21 will also be a year of transition for the Club as some of our cohort of 20 something volunteers who have given many hours of paid and unpaid service over the last few seasons move into the next phase of study; careers, etc. As many of you know, this is a regular cycle for the Club.

To ensure we capture their knowledge and skills (particularly in the lifeguarding space), we have asked our Club Captain, Max Jones, to focus his energies in supporting and mentoring the lifeguard programs/Committee and planning key gathering such as a season kick-off, etc. To balance this with Max commencing his Police career, our Club Manager, Andrea Paynter (supported by myself and the Board) will be picking up some of the Club Captain co-ordination/communication activities.

### **Looking Back - 2019/2020 Highlights**

As I have said a few times in various places 2019/2020 was a terrific year for the Club. Max will add a bit more colour in his report. From my perspective some of the highlights have been:

- Top notch regional lifeguard team on the beach – nearly all our own club members. A fabulous junior surf season – slick program; lots of fun and smiles – and that amazing video. The emergence of the Dinosaur Patrol (to rival the Fossil Patrol) – looking forward to seeing other cohorts forming patrol groups as a chance to re-connect – Mammals; Gen Y; Millennials; even dare I say a Dad Patrol!
- Motor boaters competing in Australia. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Oceans. Tom Lowe bringing his junior squad through to seniors. Solid sport results all round (see full list on website).
- The well attended strategy review/re-fresh day in July last year. On-going support from our sponsors; our first sponsor day and Sunny's coming on board. Lifeguarding asset renewal program.
- Seeing the bar format over summer really hum. Whanga Week energy – culminating in a record collection. Great support from our Junior surf parents for a range of club activities.
- Facebook awards video (over 1000 views!)

## **Thanks**

Nothing would happen without our membership giving their time and energy across all facets of the Club some paid; mostly voluntary. So, thanks to all our Board members; Committee members; Life members; associate members; lifeguards; call out squad; coaches; parent helpers; gear stewards and fixers; uniform shop staff; Bar managers; pizza makers; sausage sizzlers; sport officials; instructors; examiners; mentors; handymen; sponsors; donators; friends and supporters for a great year.

As seems to be the tradition, I have a few special people call outs.

Ross Bradding – More than a decade of running the Whanga Week collection. Passing on the baton this year and setting the bar high.

Marvin (extended direct and indirect) family – financial governance; event management; junior surf; bar and pizza staff. Awesome contribution (again).

Andrea Paynter (our club manager) – holding the good ship together and doing the worrying for us when we forget things (and picking up the pieces when we do).

Looking forward to summer. See you on the beach.

## **Gavin Scott**

Acting Club President

Whangamata Surf Lifesaving Club Inc.