

OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS

The Board of Directors and Senior Management of the Woodburn Evans Head RSL Club would like to take the opportunity to provide our members with some vital club information prior to the upcoming Annual General Meeting on the 18th October 2020.

As we all know, the hospitality industry has been devastated by the current pandemic, with an extended full lock down earlier in the year and ongoing restrictions in place. These have had a significant financial impact on our club.

Since the 23rd of March 2020, your Board and Senior Management have had approximately 52 special meetings and 8 different sub-committee meetings, dealing with an exhaustive range of issues. Below is an update on some of the issues most pertinent to members.

1. Discussions regarding an Amalgamation with the Casino RSM have not progressed to any great extent with both clubs agreeing to suspend these talks once COVID-19 hit. Only in recent times has some correspondence occurred to reinstate a timeframe for further discussion to take place. The discussions are ONLY preliminary and are intended to be the first step to completing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which would then be taken to the members of each Club. Your board plans on holding member information meetings once we have further details of what terms would be contained within the MOU. The MOU process may take some time and requires an expert consultant within this field to guide both Clubs before it can be put to members.
2. An Amalgamation is only one option that the Board of Directors is investigating to ensure its long-term viability. It is this Board's intention that our RSL Club and the RSL movement will NEVER be lost to our community. The Board has prepared a list of options available to ensure its long-term viability and investigations of each of these are at various stages.
3. During the COVID 19 period the Club's CEO, Mr. Michael Jones resigned. The Board thanks Mr Jones for his service and wishes him all the best for the future.
4. Your Club is in very good hands with Club's Operation Manager – Mr Tony Morgan and Finance Manager/Accountant – Ms Roanne Lenton leading a very competent team. The Catering Manager is Mr Tony Riordan and Supervisor Narelle head up the bistro. Our Bar Supervisors are Peter, Lewis and Cathy. We are very proud of our staff in the way they have handled what has been, and continues to be, a very difficult time dealing with the COVID restrictions.
5. The Club has been trading soundly since its re-opening; however, it continues to be a challenging environment and like all businesses, we must be diligent in our financial management. This financial year, for the first time in the Clubs history, management are working from a Board approved budget. This has taken over 6 months to put together with consultation between, Board, management and the Club's accountants. This budget was approved by the Board of Directors at the August Board meeting.

In conclusion, the Board encourages all members to utilise your facilities and spend a little of your hard earned with a drink and meal from time to time. We need the support of our members to ensure the Club continues to prosper. We understand that many of our members are wary of the current situation with COVID and we respect their concerns. However, we would like to remind you the Club is working under a very strict COVID Safe Plan, which includes constant sanitisation and cleaning to ensure that we keep you safe on your visit with us.

Stay safe and best wishes.

Board and Senior Management