



# TAREE AQUATIC CLUB Ltd

ABN 68 001 050 586 ACN 001 050 586

Macquarie St, PO Box 199, Taree NSW 2430  
Phone: (02) 6552 1435 Fax: (02) 6551 5435

email: sailos@midcoast.com.au

## **2025 SECRETARY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Dear Members,

This year was like no other, with the major impact of the catastrophic floods in May 2025. In addition to this, we had a robbery a week before Christmas which has impacted heavily on our insurance premiums this coming year. Other obstacles that Sailos has been faced with in recent times was the COVID 19 pandemic and the Major Flood in 2021. A club that is resilient and continues to push through the obstacles.

Our year end results were not a true reflection of all the hard work that had been made to turn around the previous year's deficit of \$365,601 this year. This year after all the flood issues and robbery in December last year we report a deficit of \$233,716. However, when you consider the write off of flood affected assets of \$216,000 and a loss of trade for the back half of May and June 2025 the result was a massive improvement.

Through prudent cost control, and improved revenues with our new caterers the turnaround was around \$375,000 at the end of April. Our team need to be commended on their service and adaption to change during this period. This turnaround, fortunately made solid cash flow gains which were needed to get through the refit of the club reopening from those treacherous days and weeks of the flood clean-up.

It was a very hard time for our club, to reopen those front doors on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 to enter what could only be described as a war zone. It took every ounce of effort to lead the club through the next eight weeks. We were so fortunate to have people lending a hand in the initial clean up stage which was completed in two weeks, and of course our wonderful staff that came in day in day out to clean-up and entirely repaint the club inside to give it a new lease on life ready for its next chapter. This is a great club, a community hub and the board, staff and I never had a doubt that we were not going to reopen our doors.

I want to recognise the wonderful clubs that supported us through those hard times through the Category 3 Funding and Clubs Helping Clubs initiative. The Clubs that contributed financially included Revesby Workers Club, Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club, Tuncurry Bowling Club, Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club, Chatswood RSL Club, Coogee Legion Club, Lithgow Workers Club, Club Liverpool, Clubs NSW, Mingara Recreation Club & Wests Illawarra. We would also like to thank our local clubs that supported us with furniture and equipment who include Club Forster, Club Harrington, Bathurst Golf Club, Port Macquarie Golf Club, Stuarts Point Workers and Club Old Bar.

To Clubs NSW for their support. It was an honour for both Lawrie and I to be invited to the Clubs NSW Annual Awards Night held in Sydney in June this year, where I was able to speak to over 900 club constituents about the flood and how we managed to overcome the obstacles. I was later invited to the Clubs NSW Annual Conference at the Gold Coast where I learnt about the many new trends and challenges that we face for our industry moving forward.

Whilst we reflect on the year that was, there has been many things for us to look forward in the future.

*The best views on the Manning River*

Incorporating Taree Aquatic Sailing Club

Last year, Taree Leagues Sports Club sought an expression of interest for an amalgamation partner. We responded to their interest. Taree Leagues Sports Club had asked us to submit a proposal for the amalgamation, and from that point on the discussions began about our two clubs becoming one.

The discussion around amalgamation has been very productive, open and encouraging. We feel that the relationship between the Sailos and Leagues Club will be a good one. Looking at the two clubs the Sailos has always been financially stable, and the Leagues Club has the real estate but currently is not financially sound. With capital improvements and enhancements to the Leagues premises, we believe both clubs will be strong contributors in the community as we move into the future. Whilst Sailos has the best view anyone could ask for and an exceptional dining experience, it does not have the ability to be expand, due to crown land and council restrictions. The Leagues Club has sporting and functions facilities, something that we currently lack. We believe as one we can support both many community events, sporting activities and sponsorship arrangements within our local community. Considering all of this, no one wants to see a neighbouring club close its doors. This is happening all too often these days.

Clubs are not only a place to eat, drink or play a poker machine, we are there for our communities in their times of need. To support grassroots sport, and be the place to go for commiseration with friends and relatives which include birthday parties, celebrations of life, listen to music and enjoy social outings in a safe environment. Sailos will always ensure that the community identity of the Leagues club remains, and supports all sub-clubs and internal community groups to continue to use the facilities. The alignment of our two clubs will make us stronger and more viable for the longer term, where we can share our resources, costs, suppliers and staff among the group.

The amalgamation process has been ongoing and the Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed off by both club boards and is progressing to the next stage of members meetings being scheduled in Mid-January 2026. We encourage all of our members to vote in favour of the amalgamation. We have proposed a number of strategies and improvements to the existing facilities. I encourage all members to read the MOU which is available on the club's website later next week.

The amalgamation will ensure that Sailos has two licenced venues in town and we consider the amalgamation opportunity one of growth and to future proof the brand.

Looking at the Leagues Club, the club has suffered hardship over the years, but more so when Cowper Street roadworks took place. The works that were supposed to last a matter of weeks, ended up being months on end. This limited access to the club and the carpark which impacted heavily on regular and ongoing patronage. The club also struggled as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The club has been fortunate to have John Connell put up his hand the last couple of years and take on the Club CEO role in a voluntary capacity, whilst also being the Club President. However, it has been tough, and the club has had to spend money on upgrading its compliance, systems and ongoing maintenance.

As part of the amalgamation process, the administrative functions of the amalgamated entity will be centralised at the Leagues Club premises and the club will have a Venue Manager to oversee the day to day operations of the club with my oversight.

This year being the clubs Secretary Manager has been very tough, not only after dealing with the flood clean up, it was the coordination of a number of contractors including building, electrical, plumbing, refrigeration and cleaning. It was also the complete ordering and reorganisation of all pieces of equipment to get the club back to an operational capacity.

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Incorporating Taree Aquatic Sailing Club

I would like to thank the club's Board of Directors for their strong support this year. They have displayed considerable trust in me throughout the rebuilding of our club and backed my decisions every step of the way. I would like to make special mention of Lawrie Dege our Club's Treasurer, Lawrie was here day in and out assisting me through the flood right up to when we reopened our doors on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

I would also like to congratulate Bill Nelson and Terry Vittali on being awarded Life Membership this year. It is the most prestigious honour that you can have within club life. Both have worked hard for the club over a number of years and should be commended for their efforts.

I would like to thank all of our staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the last twelve months. It has been challenging for them to say the least.

I must also thank our caterers "The Local Spoon" for weathering the long storm of no trading in the kitchen for over eight weeks during the flood. Their quality food and offerings had been sincerely missed during the time of closure. Whilst a limited menu was in place at the time of reopening, it took no time at all for them to regroup and get us back to "full steam ahead".

I would also like to thank our members for their patronage and sticking by us during the time of the floods.

It has been an honour to lead the club again this year as Secretary Manager, and I look forward to being part of an exciting year ahead.

Peter Hemingway  
Secretary Manager

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