

2022 AGM – Commodores report

Morning.

Overall, we have succeeded in achieving our goals. Our membership is stable, and we achieved a small profit. Make no mistake, we have worked our way through some challenging times and have made some challenging decisions to be able to report a positive year. It could so easily have been a very bad year.

We anticipated the continuing effects of COVID 19, so once again our simple goal was to end the year “in the black” We have achieved that and have maintained the reserve funds. Given the current circumstances we have budgeted the same as last year “in the black” (+/- \$50k). I will leave the financial aspects to our treasurer.

Before I go any further, I want to immediately acknowledge the great work that has been done by all of our staff; by our committee, subcommittee’s and volunteers; and also, you, the members who have continued to support this club.

COVID -19

We are all sick of hearing it The 2021 -2022 year has seen the continued effect of the COVID-19 crisis plus supply issues

Further lockdowns & the Orange restrictions here in January & February resulted in significant downturn in income, particularly with the requirements for extra staff, technology and the limited numbers that could attend the club.

We were eligible for some government grants which ironically reimbursed the club for the staff wages. ALL government subsidies have been passed on to the staff as required.

On the positive side

- The club did not see an anticipated significant decrease in membership.
- The travel restrictions saw a lot of people holidaying in Whangamata

In the future, COVID-19 will continue to be a risk to our business, but this risk should reduce over the next 12 months.

Tournaments

As advised last year, some of our lesser supported tournaments have been removed from the tournament calendar. The committee will continue reviewing all of the tournaments.

It was very sad, that for the first time in 38 years, our two flagship tournaments, The Nauti-girls and Classic had to be cancelled. The risks were too great in getting the

prizes & ensuring that the required minimum numbers would attend. We left that decision until the last possible moment.

I would like to thank our members & sponsors for their support of this tough decision.

In the immediate future our three key tournaments will still be:

1. Nauti Girls
2. Whangamata Classic
3. Junior fishing tournament (which will now combine game & bottom fishing)

We have already started purchasing prizes for those tournaments and look forward to their return in 2023.

On a positive note, we had the largest number of registered anglers for the Nationals, that our club has seen for a very long time.

Building

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, we generally restricted building expenditure to repairs and maintenance and once again decided to defer the planned exterior building work.

The Building Consent is submitted. We still intend to proceed, but we want to be confident that we are post- COVID.

With the surprise extra funding from the members at the last AGM, we have

- repainted the interior.
- Approved new floor coverings to the upstairs toilets
- Approved a new bespoke glass fridge to replace the old one at the far end of the bar

As advised last year, we started the planning for retractable roofing and sides to the outside area. This has proven to be challenging with the current lease being legally incorrect & other portions being obsolete. I am continuing to work with Council to get this resolved, which has to be done before we can move forward.

General costs & Staffing

In the past year, myself and our previous GM have used the mantra "Assess – Review – Adapt". This has been applied "across the board" including, but not limited to, our business costs & staffing requirements

Once again, with COVID-19 the club and the staff have had to change. We have all had to step up and work outside of our comfort zones so that this club could keep going. Particularly with the restricted numbers over the Xmas holiday period

Our staff took on the changes and challenges of dealing with COVID-19 in a timely and professional way. They assessed, they reviewed & they adapted for the benefit of all of us.

I would like to thank our previous GM, Phil Keogh for his tireless efforts. We wish him all the best for his new venture.

It continues to be important that our staff and committee listen to people and recognise what is best for the future of this club and do not just do things "because that's the way we have always done it"

Change – whether we like it or not, is something that we must accept. We have to accept and deal with change quickly – we cannot afford to rest on our laurels or keep harping back to the past.

To that extent, when our previous GM resigned, we did two significant actions:

1. The committee engaged an HR Company to assist us carrying out a "360-degree review" between the staff and committee. That has already led to some positive changes. I thank our staff for being open & honest.
2. We also engaged a highly qualified independent person to be on the panel to interview for the new GM position. This resulted in getting advice on how we should set up our senior management in the best way to future-proof the club.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that our new GM, Kevin Flynn will start on 13 June, and our acting GM, Jane Stitchbury will step up into an Operations Manager position.

I would like to thank Jane for all the hard work she has done in the Acting GM role

Still, one of our clubs greatest risks is obtaining and maintaining staff, particularly with the cost of renting or purchasing a house in Whangamata.

I am pleased to announce that we have secured a long-term lease on a residential property.

Our committee and sub-committees have an unenvied task in the 2020's in that they have to now carry out work and reporting to an extent that was never expected of committees in the years gone by. It is great that these people are willing to give something back to the club for no reward. In the last 30 months your committee has dealt with matters well outside of anything normally expected. I thank the committee for their work.

I would like to make special thanks to our out-going committee member, Naomi Peterson. & to existing committee members who are staying on.

Summary

The last 12 months have seen some more challenges. The restricted numbers & uncertainty meant that we did not get the "cream" that we normally get at Xmas, but even with COVID-19 hanging around and the uncertainty it brought, WOSC has come through without any debt & some money in the bank.

In the next twelve months we will continue supporting our members and community.

We still have some tough times ahead in the next few months, but the club is in a strong position, through a combination of membership, fiscal planning, governance and management. We are ready to "spring" forward.

This club as a huge inter-generational membership that any other sports club would wish to have ½ of. The number of families coming to this club is amazing. That shows a healthy club for the years to come.

Although my tenure as Commodore has ended, I look forward to being a part of this 7500 strong team to continue having one of the best clubs in New Zealand.

I leave you in very capable hands of Barney O'Neill as Commodore.

It has been a pleasure.



Andrew Hartley
Commodore