

## **PRESIDENTS REPORT 2015**

Season 2015 has been a very exciting one for the Wodonga Hockey Club with significant accomplishments achieved by hard work and commitment by its Executive, its Committee Members, our wonderful players, and all of its many volunteers! Together, we have been able to continue in our journey in making the Wodonga Hockey Club a Club of “choice” and consequently attract new players and grow the sport we all enjoy.

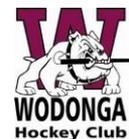
I would like to start by thanking my fellow Committee Members, particularly the Executive Committee, for their support and assistance during 2015. As the Clubs representatives, the Committee has worked extremely hard to ensure our Club is viewed as a strong, inclusive, community orientated, and professionally ran organization that has the best interests of its Members at the centre of everything it does. We have also tried to make it fun along the way!

Foremost I would like to thank our Clubs Secretary Vanessa Flanagan for all the time and effort she has contributed to ensure its efficient running. An enormous amount of effort goes on behind the scenes to make this Club function smoothly, and Vanessa has ensured this is the case yet again. I would like to particularly call out her excellent efforts in seeking out, applying, and successfully obtaining critical grant funding. I would also like to thank her for support in putting up with my many “left field suggestions”, and turning them in to reality.

Glenn Delaney our Clubs Treasurer has again done an incredible job (and very well supported by Mel Pont I might add) and has capably delivered strong financial control. Even more importantly, Glenn has been able to modernize our registration offerings as a well as fee collection process that will save our future Committee Members significant time and effort moving forward. I would like to personally thank Glenn for his support over the last two seasons. The Club owes Glenn a great deal – more than most would realize.

I will leave the announcement of the Clubs financial results to Glenn, but wish to say I’m very pleased with the year-end position, and that it is a reflection on this Committees hard work as well as strong financial control. The Club has never been in a stronger financial position.

Della, as Vice President, and proud to say our Clubs newest Life Member and long standing Committee member, has been a great support for myself and the wider Committee. I would like I thank her for her valuable contributions to the Club this year.



To each of the other members of the Committee, all our Coaches and Managers, players, parents, and volunteers, thank you all very much for all of your time and effort. The Club cannot function as well as it has, or driven it's self forward in a positive direction, if not for all of us working together as a family. You have all done a terrific job! Of all of our "volunteers" I like to make special mention to Don Cullen and Ross Williams for their tireless efforts to sell raffle tickets each and every week at our Clubs major sponsor, the Blazing Stump.

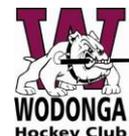
Club sponsors in many respects provides the "financial foundation" which is a key enabler for the Committee to drive strategies and forge relationships that will enhance our Clubs reputation and drive growth. To think otherwise would be short sighted and inevitably result in a weaker financial position. The Club has been very deliberate in ensuring any "partnership" we enter in to with a potential sponsor is *mutually rewarding* for both entities. This will ensure longevity in the partnership which is critical for a Club like ourselves.

To this end I would thank all of our significant 2015 Club sponsors i.e. Blazing Stump, Linfox Australia, Quest Apartments Wodonga, Signs By Knight, Hume Bank, and Norske Skog. I would also like to thank all the businesses who got behind our players this season in the form of individual player sponsorships. Without our sponsors on-going support, all of what has been achieved over the last few years would not have been possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again welcome on board Aspire as a major sponsor for the 2016 season who will be a key enabler for the roll out of our new uniform!

At season closing, our Club was able to claim Premierships in U12 Boys, U16 Girls, and Division 2 Men. This was an outstanding achievement and a significant improvement over the previous year. Well done to all those involved. Every junior and senior player who pulled on the Wodonga Hockey Club top should be proud of their dedication and how they have gone about representing this magnificent Club. I'm sure next year we will take a further step and start to challenge the likes of the United Hockey Club for the Flo Johnson Club Champion!

Off the field, the 2015 Committee has worked very hard at embedding a number of activities put in to place the previous year, as well rolled out further initiatives to drive the Club forward and to make this a 'Club of Choice' for players newly arriving

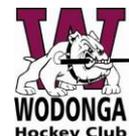


in the area, as well as for players trying our game for the very first time. The initiatives have included;

- Inducting a new Life Member – Della Poppins
- Further increased our sponsorship base over the 2014 season – adding Norske Skog, Hume Bank to the table
- Conducted our first “Registration Under the Stars” event at the Cube in Wodonga
- Conducted our first season launch cocktail event at the Blazing Stump
- Created our Clubs own “Fair go, Sport!” video
- Rolled out the Fair go, Sport! Program – extensive media publicity
- Increased Club profile by sourcing Club advertising on a billboard in Melrose Drive
- Revamped our Club newsletter - fully electronic via Mail Chimp
- Enhanced our web site for on line registration and payments
- Grew our Facebook followers to now an unbelievable 700 followers!
- Added further signage at the Wodonga Hockey Centre recognizing sponsorship and creating a future revenue stream
- Videoed and posted Division 1 Men’s and Women’s game – and posted on you tube
- Increased our financial support for our Clubs junior State representatives
- Successful conducted or annual Trivia/Silent Night auction, Dave Chandler Cup, Junior and Senior Presentations, Junior “Get Together”, Life Member Communication session, and Club Day

Further to the above listed items, I also wanted to specifically call out;

1. Life Member Inducted – At our Senior Presentation night, I had the honour to welcome Della Poppins as our Clubs newest Life Members. A terrific honour and well deserved for all of the hard work Della has, and continues to do, on behalf of the Wodonga Hockey Club.
2. Border Indoor Hockey – this competition was to attract new players to our game, add specialized skills to those participating, and to create a revenue stream for the Club with the aim of being re-invested in to growth programs. Pleasingly we have seen further growth in playing numbers rising from 80 last summer to 120 this competition. I ask all members to support this competition as it’s critical to our growth plans.



3. Wodonga Field Replacement – To ensure a suitable playing surface at the Wodonga Hockey Centre is a clear responsibility of HAW. Unfortunately plans were not in place for a timely upgrade. This has now been further complicated with the Wodonga City Councils Baranduda Fields Sporting Precinct. The executive continues to work “alongside” both AHW and the Council to ensure the best outcome for its members
4. Playing Numbers - The Committee is proud to say that key initiatives around increased media publicity, the Indoor competition, working closely with HV Road Show and local schools, and providing more competitive junior registration fees (only possible due to our increased sponsorship base line), has delivered for the second year in a row growth in our playing numbers, especially juniors – the life blood of our Club

Sadly, this season we saw the passing of our Clubs first Life Member, Noel Mason pass away. Noel was a much loved and honored member of our extended family who had a profound effect on this Clubs culture. Noels contribution to our Club is recognized via the Noel Mason honour board, and the Noel Mason Youth Encouragement Awards.

I was honored to be President of this wonderful Club for the 2015 season. Together with the Committee – one which is made up of some of the most passionate hockey people you could ever hope to work with, a lot has been achieved in a short period of time. We plan to further strengthen our Club in 2016 and work specifically on longer term strategic objectives.

The Wodonga Hockey Club is an amazing Club. A Club which is based around fun, family, and fair. As one big family, we may not always agree on all things or how things should be done, but at the end of the day, everyone has the best interests of the Club at heart, and you can't ask for more than that!

Go Doggies!!

Kyle Brereton

President Wodonga Hockey Club

FUN. FAMILY. FAIR