

18 September 2023

Dear Members,

It's been a busy and productive time for Parramatta Leagues Club!

### **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

Thank you to the record number of members who voted via postal or online in the recent EGM. Due to a legal challenge brought by a Member of the Club, the meeting and the associated ballot were postponed.

The Board has now agreed to cancel the meeting and the ballot to resolve the legal challenge which had become a costly and protracted legal process. Please accept this advice as Notice of Cancellation.

Thank you again for your support of strong governance at our Club. The Board remains committed to the highest standards including criteria for eligibility of directors and may revisit this issue in the future.

### **Around the Club!**

The Club's Subaru promotion and Toyota promotions have been going gangbusters. By the time you read this, the lucky Subaru winner will have been announced! It's not too late to win the Toyota, so why not get on board!

The Club is setting records for membership, visitation, and revenue at Parramatta and at Vikings! We have enjoyed much success and growth, in large part due to the stability of Board and Management.

Club revenue remains solid and comparable with pre-covid levels however like all businesses, we are being impacted by increased costs. Chief Executive Chris Dimou and his team are doing the difficult job of managing costs well. Our Club is virtually "net debt free".

### **Kellyville Support**

Through good financial management, we have been able to fulfil a core purpose by providing financial support to the Eels that will see them start construction of the new Kellyville Centre of Excellence next month. This generational project will see the Eels have the largest Rugby League precinct in Australia and a state-of-the-art High-Performance facility for our Men's and Women's programs.

We are delighted to play such a vital role in delivering this amazing project.

## **Dural Amalgamation**

Parra received the keys for the Dural Country Club on August 18, which was celebrated with a terrific official ceremony with the Dural Country Club Board and Members. Parra has thousands of members in the Hills and now all Member benefits are available to them close to home.

We wholeheartedly welcome Dural Country Club members into the Parra Leagues family. We thank Club President John Puleo and his fellow directors for their commitment in securing the future of their Club.

## **Member Facilities**

We have had great feedback regarding the new Members Lounge on Level 1. The new social environment and the updated food and beverage offerings have been warmly embraced, for coffee, a light meal, or an afternoon drink.

Our award-winning Chef Helmut just won Regional Winner (Northwestern Metropolitan area) for Large Clubs and 3rd Place overall for NSW Large Clubs category for his delicious Fish Tacos. A tremendous achievement by Chef Helmut and his team and testament to the great food at our clubs!

Construction of a new restaurant and Walk of Fame in Eels Lane recently commenced. During the initial excavation, we uncovered some undocumented underground infrastructure. Combined with replacement of the dangerous exterior flammable cladding discovered on our main building, there is a significant rise in redevelopment costs. The Club is now considering alternatives to minimise costs. Of course the safe removal of flammable cladding must continue.

The Clubhouse truly is “The House That Jack Built” and holds many surprises!

## **Staff Updates**

The Club continues to strengthen its management team with the addition of a new General Manager IT, Mustafa Mohabbat and General Manager of Parramatta Leagues Will Corbett. Mustafa is a vastly experienced IT executive who is responsible for driving our technology strategy for the Club in the coming years. Will joins us from City Tattersalls Club and has strong hospitality management experience.

Our Group Chief Financial Officer Nikky Van Der Meer has been appointed to a newly created role at the Eels as Football CFO. Nikky's contribution to Parra Leagues has been enormous during her eight-year tenure at the Club and we congratulate on her new role at the Football Club.

## Strategy Review

The Board and Management of your Clubs are committed to ensuring that we have a strong strategy underpinning our organisation. We have just completed an extensive review of our Club's Vision for the Future.

While there are some unknowns such as cashless gaming coming for the Club industry, there are some great opportunities. We need a strong adaptable plan to take advantage of those opportunities and we look forward to updating Members soon.

## Football

We are all disappointed after a stellar 2022 where both Men and Women's teams made their Grand Finals, both missed the Finals in 2023.

Our football club has strong core of quality players, and we look forward to a return to Finals football in 2024.

We congratulate Clint Gutherson who cleaned up all the major Men's Awards including the Ken Thornett Medal, and our seven women's players selected in the Prime Ministers XIII to play New Guinea - Kennedy Cherrington (vice capt) Rueben Cherrington, Abbi Church, Kimberley Hunt, Rachael Pearson, Taneka Todhunter and Cassey Tohi-Hiku.

Our commitment to junior league investment has seen a strong rise in playing numbers in both boys and girls. There has been 56% rise in female players across the district and our 7% rise in boys, creating our highest participation rates since 2018. Our continued investment is playing a key role in growing rugby league in our catchment.

There is certainly much to be proud of, and with a clear strategic vision in place to guide our future direction, plenty to be excited about.

Thank you for your support of the Club and I look forward to seeing you at our venues over the coming months.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Greg Monaghan'.

Greg Monaghan  
President of the Board

On behalf of the Directors: Phil Sim, Mark Jenkins, Sue Coleman, Joy Cusack, Richard Foda and Darren Adam