



*Giving the young
and disadvantaged
a sporting chance*

President's Annual Report for 2023/24

As President of the ACT Branch of Lord's Taverners it is with pleasure I again present my report for 2023/24.

In February Murray Radcliffe, our Vice President and I, attended the National Conference and found as we have previously, how beneficial it is to hear how other branches are reaching out to attract new members, how they raise funds and the support they give to the young and disadvantaged within their communities.

There is nothing like seeing the impact you can have on a child through the gift of sport. For the Lords Taverners ACT to continue to support the disadvantaged youth in our region, we desperately need to increase our membership. I ask each member to please make an effort to join up at least one new member this year. Your support will enable our committee to have the funds to reach children with the assistance they need to play the sport of their choice.

Also, regrettably, there has been a notable drop in the number of members attending events the committee organised over this past year. One example is the Annual Dinner planned for 6th December 2023, which was cancelled due to lack of numbers. Again, these events are important as this is our primary means of raising funds to provide the help needed. Now more than ever our support is required and we should all be thankful to know the Lords Taverners are able to help.

Events

Over the past year, we held two movie nights, again, one in August and February, disappointingly numbers for both screenings were down on previous years but the second was a greater success.

Our annual drinks break was held at Farrahs Liquor collective in Fyshwick in November. Again our numbers were down on previous years.

A good attendance of 50, thoroughly enjoyed our guest speaker Jodie Davis, at the Breakfast held at the East Hotel in January, on the morning of the Australian Women's T20 International match. Jodie, kept the room entertained with her hilarious stories of her time spent in Pakistan when she was commissioned by Pakistan to train a team of girls to participate in their first World Cup. Only four girls had played cricket before.

Our Annual wine maker's dinner was held this year at the Canberra Rex. Barton Estate provided excellent wines, complementing the food served by the Rex. Thank you to the Canberra Rex and Julie and Bob from Barton Estate. There were many positive comments on the night with many saying it was one of our best.

In May, 50 plus members and friends gathered at the Queanbeyan Hotel for a casual luncheon and to hear from our guest speaker Narelle O'Rourke OAM. Narelle, a historian and author shared stories from two of her books, both of which had strong connections to the Canberra Queanbeyan district. This was a very successful day for Lords Taverners thanks to the support from Narelle and her husband Chris and Mathew Griffin from the Queanbeyan Hotel who was more than generous in his support.

Outreach Activities

After a number of years we were delighted to be once again in partnership with Rotary taking cricket to disabled kids. This was held at Canberra Grammar School on 16th November and we look forward to being part of this day again later this year.

We held our All Abilities multi sports day in April, which was again an outstanding success. Over 100 plus primary school children, with various disabilities attended with their teachers and carers and participated in a variety of sports. We provided funding for the hire of the Dome and a barbeque lunch for the students, their carers and teachers. We are so very grateful to Andrew Weir, from CBR Cyber whose significant sponsorship of this program ensures it will continue next year. We also greatly appreciate the support from all of the following sports who provide coaches and equipment on the day. Cricket ACT, Tennis ACT, Hockey, Futsal, Bowls, and Pickle ball.

Support for the Young and Disadvantaged

Thanks to the generosity of members, sponsors and the support of our Principal partner Morgans Financial Ltd, we were delighted to disburse \$16,500 this past this year.

Partnering with Cricket ACT our disbursements again include, the 'Spirit of Cricket' awarded to the club voted as the best representing the spirit of this wonderful game. The Junior Taverners Awards, two promising young cricketers were this year Alana Horsfall who represented ACT U19 and U16s womens teams at the Australian National Championships and Jake Smith, from ANU club, took 50 wickets for the season and amassed 403 runs. Jake also represented the ACT at U19s Nationals. They were presented with their award at Cricket ACT's Pathway End-of-Year function, at the Bradman Pavilion.

Due to unforeseen circumstances last year's Disability awards were delayed. Noweight talented young athlete, most of whom are here tonight, have been identified as recipients. It's the seventeen year that these awards have been provided by Lords Taverners ACT Branch, and the awardees have each received between \$500 and \$1,000 to assist them continue their already impressive performances in their chosen sport.

We continue to support Pegasus, Riding for the disabled.

Membership

On 30 June 2024 our paid up member numbers were 118. We need to increase our membership and I Have asked you to recruit where possible additional members.

Sponsorship

We wish to acknowledge the generous support of Matt Reid, Matthew McNamara, fellow directors and staff from our principle partner Morgans Financial Ltd.

Our heartfelt thanks to Andrew Weir from CBR cyber whose sponsorship of our All Abilities Multi Sports day is greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing to work with Andrew and his staff in the future.

Committee Matters

At our July meeting, the committee considered the ongoing relevance of Lords Taverners ACT. It was agreed we remain relevant however, we acknowledge the challenges of attracting new members, fund raising and identifying worthy recipients for support. The committee reaffirmed its intention to support the young and disadvantaged to play the sport of their choice, however cricket as always will remain central. Several useful suggestions were made for improvements to our current operational arrangements and I will advise the membership of the results of Committee deliberations in the future.

A couple of very ambitious targets were set: Membership to increase in three years to 150 and our annual charitable disbursements to substantially increase to \$50,000 over the same time frame.

The committee agreed achieving them would require changes to our approach and considerable energy from the committee itself. The committee members are committed to making the necessary effort.

I would like to thank the committee, all of whom are volunteers, for their commitment and support. Our immediate goal is to grow our membership over the coming year, and I ask all those associated with the Lords Taverners to assist.

We are fortunate that Chris Hunter and Keith Hardy have renominated for the positions of The Secretary and Treasurer respectively and Murray Radcliffe as renominated as Vice President.

The Look-Ahead

Our annual dinner will be held at Royal Canberra Golf Club on 31st October. This is a marquee event and I hope it will be well supported.

Our Drinks Break evening will be held on 4th December at Farrahs Wine Collective in Fyshwick. I would like to encourage all members to support this event and share the details with as many friends as possible for this is not just a Taverners event, it is open to anyone who wishes to attend. We are very grateful for the support from Farrahs Wine Collective who donate a percent of the value of wine purchased to the Lords Taverners.

We also have a sausage sizzle planned at Bunnings Gungahlin on 22nd December.

Appreciation

We thank Our Principle Partner, Morgans Financial Ltd, our sponsors, our Members and supporters who have been so generous to us again throughout this year. Once again, special thanks go to Muriel Wilkinson, whose continued generosity has underpinned the Junior Taverners Awards; we continue to be indebted to honorary member and now committee member, Gail Farr, who has organised the disability awards program since its inception 17 years ago and for her organisation of the All Abilities Multi Sports day. Many thanks also to our honorary auditor, Dennis O'Connor.

We are very grateful for the generous support we received this past year from, CBR cyber, Farrah's Wine Collective, Barton Estate Winery, Palace Electric Cinemas, and Sticky tickets. Community groups who also provided support include; the Canberra Southern Cross Club Group, Royal Canberra Golf Club and Palliative Care ACT. Their support is greatly valued and appreciated.

Thank you, you the members, so much, with your help, we ensure children experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability have an opportunity to play the sport of their choice. We

can continue with our Disability Awards and plan for our next All Abilities Multi -Sports day. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing the smiles on the faces of the children as they race around the Dome participating in the various sports.

With Committee members, I will be available at the AGM to respond to questions on any of the matters covered in this report.

Nanette Bak - 31 August 2024