

## **LAKE CATHIE BOWLING AND RECREATION CLUB LIMITED**

### **Venue Manager's Report – 2025**

It is with a mix of pride and reflection that I present my first & final report as Venue Manager of Lake Cathie Bowling and Recreation Club Limited, an entity which, as of this year, no longer exists in its former structure. While it is bittersweet to say goodbye to this chapter, I am pleased to say that we conclude on a strong and positive note.

Our financial year closed with revenue of \$2,230,598 — a remarkable 17.9% increase from the previous year, equating to \$337,945. Bar sales rose by \$152,235 (17.75%) and poker machine revenue increased by \$69,228 (11.2%). These results were achieved despite expenses rising by \$173,722 (8.4%) and the occurrence of one-off capital costs, such as the \$33,000 payment to Crown Land for the easement, switchboard failure & retaining wall expenditures. I am particularly proud that our operational cash flow reached its highest point in 18 years and that our profitability was the best we have seen since 2015.

This level of success could not have happened without a unified team effort. I want to acknowledge the tremendous groundwork laid by our former General Manager, Lauren, whose leadership made a lasting impact. I also extend my appreciation to our Bowls Co-ordinator, Steve, & the entire bowls committee for their excellent work in growing our bowls membership by over 100 members, as well as the golf & fishing club committees for their commitment to community engagement and fundraising. To all the directors: Michael Ryan, Warren Henderson, Ross Thomson, Steve Webster & Mark Foss for providing and assisting with great guidance and direction for the club & for also taking me in to have the opportunity the last 9 months.

2024 was a vibrant year for events. Our cocktail-making workshops were enthusiastically attended. Friday night live music brought energy to the club week after week, Tuesday night trivia grew to record-breaking numbers, introduction of Poker providing extra activity in the club, I am proud of the team's effort in delivering these experiences and am already looking forward to introducing even more engaging events in the future.

While club management is tasked with driving programming and operations, none of our success would be possible without the ongoing support of our members and guests. Thank you for choosing to spend your time with us, for participating in events, and for continuing to support the club in so many ways.

Although Lake Cathie Bowling and Recreation Club Limited is being formally wound up, I am confident in the exciting future ahead under Dubbo RSL's stewardship. Club Lake Cathie will carry forward our local spirit, and I am reassured by the commitment from Dubbo RSL to still maintain a strong local voice in operations. I invite members to approach myself or the committee with any questions or feedback as we move forward.

With your support, I believe we will continue building on our strong foundation and make Club Lake Cathie the most welcoming and community-focused club in the region.

Sincerely,

**Rhys Birrane**

Venue Manager

Club Lake Cathie