



Annual General Meeting Chair Report

Sunday 1st October 2023

The Taverners Australia Sydney Branch, Chairman's report for 2022-2023

It is with sadness I start this chair report honouring 2 members of the Taverners family that passed away this year. Diana "Bubbles" Fisher was one of our founding members and remained a stalwart on our committee until her untimely passing in January 2023 from a short illness. Diana was an enormous bundle of energy who was always full of ideas and keen to support even to the very end and she will be dearly missed. Sadly, in May 2023, Brian Booth MBE, our Honorary Patron, passed away. Brian was a true gentleman who was always willing help the Taverners and offer his sage advice and wisdom. A long-term supporter of the Taverners and a Vintage Cricketer, he will be sorely missed.

I do thank the support of Brett Lee, our Honorary President and Trent Copeland, our Honorary Playing Captain, who after an outstanding career with NSW Blues has now retired to a commentator role with Channel 7, other media duties along with a role with Cricket NSW.

Nationally the Taverners has distributed more than \$12 million since inception in working towards our mission of "giving the young and disadvantaged a sporting chance". There is a direct relationship with Cricket Australia as a charity partner, along with a tax-deductible vehicle through the Taverners Foundation to help donors maximise their gifts, and we are the only charity whose deeds are directly aimed at the cricketing community across Australia. The partnership is actioned through "The Sporting Chance Fund" with the aim of raising significant funding to grow programs and initiatives focussed on the engagement of boys and girls, multicultural communities, indigenous Australians and people with a disability.

Financial

Financials for 22-23, total income \$31,991 against previous year \$19,495, with an operating loss -\$4,855, and total retained members funds of \$44,792, which although marginally down from the previous year, continues to maintain our branch in a healthy position for the future. Our operating loss was primarily due to funds distributed as sponsorships and grants to the great causes we support. Passive fund raising continues through the national raffle to help generate revenue. Fortunately, we were able to host a successful 100 Club function along with a very successful inaugural golf day and these are detailed below. We are in the position to help support new and current beneficiaries in the year ahead.

Membership

Our membership numbers remain too low, not helped by the low number of functions, however support for the events we do stage are healthy. Objectives moving forward are to retain members and encourage new members to join by offering more value and to communicate to our members more often via newsletters, social media and our website <https://lordstavernersnsw.org.au/>.

Fund Raising

We successfully hosted the Taverner 100 Club function in July at The Bellevue Hotel in Paddington, for the Australia vs England Rugby Test match. This was a very enjoyable evening, attended by 55 Taverner members, friends and their guests. Many thanks go to Nic Andrews and Jason Monteath especially along with the committee's support for organising the function. Proceeds from the evening will go towards helping to local rugby players, Nathan Stapleton & Andrew Regan, who suffered spinal injuries in rugby matches in 2022.

The Lord's Taverners Australia Sydney Branch Incorporated | www.lordstavernersaus.org.au

Chairman: Richard Lucas | **Secretary:** Nic Savage | **Treasurer:** Jason Monteath

Honorary Patron: Daphne Benaud | **Honorary President:** Brett Lee | **Honorary Playing Captain:** Trent Copeland



Passive Fund Raising: the national Taverner raffle proceeds for our branch were healthy with over \$4500 raised, and at National level we raised \$84,300, which was a superb result. The new national raffle for 2023-2024 is just about to be distributed to all members in both electronic format, and also via traditional printed tickets to all members. I encourage all to buy some tickets on-line which is a very easy process to help support our beneficiaries.

We do have DGR status through The Taverners Foundation providing tax deductible receipts for donations of \$2 or more. We are grateful for all donations received and encourage further donations to help continue to raise funds to support our beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries

Annually the Taverners support the National Cricket Inclusion Championships. This Carnival was staged in Brisbane in February 2023. We supported these championships and have supported the Blind and Low Vision cricket team and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing cricket team in the last financial year with grants of \$4500. We will provide further support to all 3 teams this year, including the NSW team for Cricketers with an Intellectual Disability.

We maintain our support for Wairoa School at North Bondi where Carmel Seeto and her teachers do a remarkable job in teaching, aiding and supporting intellectually disabled children, providing a grant of \$3000. We supported a young deaf girl, Shirley Liu, in purchasing cricket equipment to support her cricket endeavours.

For the first time we supported CRBF (Cooper Rice Brading Foundation) in their support of the young in finding a cure for sarcoma with a grant of \$5000.

Following our successful 100 Club function we supported 2 local rugby players, Nathan Stapleton & Andrew Regan who suffered spinal injuries in 2022, with a grant of \$4000.

Thanks

I reinforce a very big thank you to our small Sydney committee for their support and commitment to the Sydney branch. Enormous thanks to Nic Savage and Jason Monteath, our Secretary and Treasurer respectively, and to Nic Andrews a key organiser of 100 Club functions, Nic Bills & Juris Turmanis for their support. If you have a love of cricket and some time to spare, along with a willingness to support some great causes, we would welcome you onto our committee.

I encourage members old and current to re-join the Taverner family and support the many worthwhile causes "giving the young and disadvantaged a sporting chance." For those of you wanting to become a member of the Taverners, an application form can be downloaded from our website <http://lordstavernersnsw.org.au/> To remain sustainable, we are looking for further support from individuals and companies and if you can support in any way, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any of the committee.

Richard Lucas, Chairman, The Lord's Taverners Australia, Sydney Branch, October 2023

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