

## **LAMBTON MOUNT LACROSSE CLUB INC.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

It is with pleasure that your committee presents its report for the year ended 31 December 2023, including the financial statements for the year then ended.

Income from subscriptions for the year was slightly higher than the prior year, taking our financial membership once again to record levels. While we started the year off with quite a surge in new membership and looked on track to increase our financial membership to over 300, sadly quite a number of members for whatever reason, have not renewed in 2023 or not joined, despite assurances otherwise. Hopefully this is an aberration and they will renew or join in 2024.

Our total members funds grew to \$27,743 as at 31 December 2023 (2022: \$26,617), with members subscriptions in advance increasing to a record \$9,140. This is very important and very satisfying as it not only demonstrates commitment and satisfaction with what we are doing but also removes a significant amount of administrative time in chasing up members to renew, time that can be better spent on positive initiatives to help lacrosse grow in Australia.

While our cash on hand is healthy it is not what we are about and I am sure it is not what our members want to see. Your hard earned subscriptions should be working hard to help grow lacrosse in Australia and we are hoping that in early 2024 we will have some positive announcements on some important strategic thrusts that will require a significant amount of funding, which we think will help lacrosse grow in Australia.

Thanks once again to my golf buddy Bill Matthews, who has designed and maintained our ever expanding website since its inception. We have been able to add greater functionality, including a new search function and faster access speed in the photo gallery (Which now has over 2000 photos, up from 1600 last year).

While we don't have a formal section for a Hall of Fame we have identified more outstanding Australian lacrosse champions and builders of our great game, highlighting what they have achieved during their careers, and hopefully when the Australian Lacrosse Hall of Fame is established, what we have completed will make the process simpler for a Hall of Fame selection committee, as well as the national and state based sports Halls of Fame.

A big thank you to Keka, who again has done a marvelous job in not only populating the website with photos, but also, in many cases, improving the resolution and coming up with technical solutions to enhance the experience. He also instigated the video section which he is methodically populating and expanding, with links to related photo sections, etc.

To our secretary Bill "Junior" Gray who has been on the journey with me from the very outset when we conceived the idea of starting a club to reconnect lacrosse people in Australia, to develop our history and make a difference in lacrosse in Australia, a special thanks for your contribution and ongoing commitment.

While we are growing at a very solid rate we are a long way from our long term objective of 1,000 members, and need your help to encourage your former team mates, children, grandchildren, cousins, parents, uncles and aunties to join. What is pleasing is the number of people who have joined, who were not aware of our club and what we do, and the amount of encouragement we get from satisfied members, and how many have encouraged their former or current team mates to join.

What is important is to appreciate that our demographic is ageing, many of our original long term members are no longer with us and many of my generation will not be with us in 10-15 years, so it is vital that we recruit new members, particularly those in their 30's and 40's, who have just finished playing lacrosse and may have walked away from the game – we need to reconnect with them. We may well be the largest club in the world based on financial members, but given our goals we have a long way to go. You can help us grow our membership and reach, and I urge you to seriously think about what power and capacity you have to keep us growing in terms of not only new members but delivering that next generation of leaders to assist with the running of the club and provide succession into the future.

**Our objectives remain simple: we are trying to reconnect former lacrosse people to our great game, provide them with historical information via “Lambton’s Shot on Goal” and our website, and where possible help lacrosse grow in Australia, financially or in kind.**

Finally, I would like to thank our committee for their efforts to help our club grow from a very few members 8 years ago to what it is today, just shy of 300 financial members. There is a lot that happens behind the scenes to make our club bigger and better and we are always looking to improve our value proposition and grow our membership.

To all members thank you for your support and interest, it is appreciated, and means a lot to us and to lacrosse in Australia.

Yours in lacrosse

John Nolan  
Chairman  
16 January 2024