

Presidents Report 2019-20

A year ago I stood amongst our members to thank you for entrusting me to assume the presidency for our great club.

Now due to the unprecedented times we find ourselves in, I must write to express my heartfelt thanks to the committee and members of the Club. It has been a challenging year for all and our Club like most business and organisations has been forced to adapt to ensure it remained valued by its members. There have certainly been challenges in how we have all stayed connected and yet with the support from members we have overcome these and managed to keep our club strong and viable.

Critical to our success is and has always been the engagement of guest speakers. We aim to deliver diversity in education and entertainment and whether it is comedy from Dave Hughes or knowledge gained from Justin Giddings from Avalon we trust the members have found our speakers enlightening.

When in April Covid-19 restrictions became the “new norm” we moved to our first Webinar meeting with the Mayor Stephanie Asher. The Major gave us an informative insight into the future of our city and where she believed our city’s strengths and challenges lie. Since then we have appreciated the many speakers who modified their presentations for our Webinar format and furthermore, our members for supporting and embracing this medium ensuring we have been able to continue.

I would like to thank the committee members who capably assisted me in ensuring the smooth running of the club during the past 12 months: Denice O’Neill-Schlank, Tim Noonan, Amy Fisher, Scott Warren, Ben Flynn, Maree Herath, Stuart Whitehead, Mark Osborne and Scott Andersen.

Special thanks to Denice O’Neill-Schlank, Amy Fisher and Stuart Whitehead who assisted on the speakers committee.

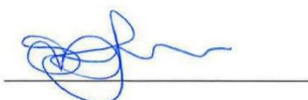
I would also like to thank Jon Mamonski who acted as Executive Officer of the club during the majority of my term as president. Every aspect went to plan with metronomic timing.

I want to express my best wishes to Denice O’Neill-Schlank as she takes on the role of President for 2020/21. The club is in capable hands. A major focus for Denice and her committee for the next 12 months is to keep members engaged through these uncertain times and work towards resuming our dinner meetings as soon as we are permitted to do so.

We have one last Webinar meeting scheduled for September at which point there will be a pause in these presentations. The committee will be in touch with further information shortly defining the interim process changes. We will outline the ways club members can remain connected and also the strategies the club will employ to guarantee it is in a healthy position to resume to its former self when the current situation is over.

When I joined the club as a member 13 years ago I knew the Geelong Business Club would be instrumental in connecting me with other local business owners, forging working relationships and a vital source of information to better understand what makes our great city tick.

All these years later I can reflect that the Club has rewarded me with all these things and much more.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simon Jarman', is written over a horizontal line.

Simon Jarman
President