

President's Report (2025/2026)

Whether a business or a club, it takes a team of people working together to achieve successful outcomes. With a great committee already engaged, we also welcomed Andrew Clyne as Treasurer, Dominique Ho dedicated to Marketing, and in July we welcomed Justine Finlay to the Risk and Governance Sub Committee.

Following the introduction of the Corporate Membership model in August 2025, the Committee's focus was squarely on ramping up the Club's profile and online presence to reach a broader network and attract new memberships.

A new website to meet our current needs is well underway with the assistance of Wes. The further structured activation and measuring of our social media by Dominique shows a continued increase in engagement each month with some guest bookings to our dinner meetings.

The Alternative Representative model endorsed by the Club in August 2025 has seen some members sending other members of their business team along to dinner meetings in their stead when unable to attend. We encourage more members to extend this opportunity for personal and professional development to your team.

Thanks to members actively inviting guests along to experience the club and to the dedication of Dan, Geoff and Andrew on the Membership Sub Committee along with the administrative support of our Executive Officer, Edwina, we welcomed 7 Corporate Memberships and 10 Individual Memberships; a total of 24 new members to the Club in the past 12 months!

To assist new members to assimilate into the club, the committee have recently introduced Ambassadors. Thank you Freya Fidge and Jarod Mason, we appreciate you taking on this new role at our monthly dinner meetings.

Guidelines consisting of purpose and overview for each sub committee and officer role are being compiled to assist committee members to understand all elements of the committee and to hit the ground running in their respective roles. Andrew is currently assisting with digitisation of our nomination form and internal forms for greater flow and efficiency.

Challenges have been encountered across the year by members missing registration cut-offs and others requesting a return to the Opt Out system for dinner meetings. Opting Out if unable to attend would eliminate this friction point of having to register each month. This is your club therefore the committee has compiled a short survey to hear from the membership before making any changes.

We have continued to enjoy a warm welcome with exceptional catering and service by Deb, Hugh and the Truffleduck team, even going the extra mile incorporating our March

2026 speaker Giorgio Linguanti, Founder of *That's Amore Cheese*, products into our dinner menu.

The GBC prioritises learning from our peers, their business experiences, and guest speakers. Thanks to Maxine, Stefan and Dom on our Speaker Sub Committee, Ramon Rodriguez invited us to lead boldly, think bigger, fail smarter. Nicole O'Sullivan unlocked the secrets of resilience, reinvention and relevance. Brett Winter, CEO of Geelong Port addressed the Future of Energy in our region. Clare Pales brought us up-to-date with Cyber Security. To end 2025 we enjoyed music by Tom & Seville Doublier and magic by Matt Hollywood, Illusionist. Bri Williams brought the Behavioural Science of Influencing Action. Giorgio Linguanti - building a disruptive food brand in Australia. Amir Qutub filled the room with how to put AI Agents to work. Kerry Boulton brought The Uncensored Truth About Exit Strategies. Sue Mackey - Psychohacking your business to promote optimal outcomes. Robert Bruce addressed Flow Under Pressure: Why Speed, Alignment and Lead-Time will define the next decade. Tonight we have Lee Troop- Olympic Lessons, Leadership and the Creation of the Geelong Running Festival.

It has been a privilege to be entrusted to be your President and work with such a dedicated and talented Committee and Executive Officer to progress the club. Your assistance and support has been much appreciated. Thank you.

Dan has been very active on the committee and with growing the membership and I have every confidence in his ability to lead the committee in continuing to advance the club.

Sharon Hill
President (2025/2026)
Geelong Business Club