

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 2020 OCBC AGM**

The 2019-20 season was as the cliché goes, a game of two halves.

The OCBC started strongly, getting a range of initiatives underway late last year, inaugurating a great new event for children at Orere Point, hosting more than eighty Over-60s for the annual Christmas Lunch and running two very successful fundraising fishing competitions.

Then came the second half, along with a new opposition team we had never met before.

Covid-19 severely disrupted not just the OCBC, but the entire country. Activity was locked down, events and gatherings were out, so we changed our game plan.

The OCBC focussed on the Community part of its name, teaming up with the Orere School to identify who in the community was possibly in need of assistance, distributing information and food as well as support at a time when it was needed.

The Covid pandemic had, and will have, its many downsides, but it had some upsides too. Orere Point has emerged from our lockdowns a better place.

We know our neighbours and their kids better, and enjoy the genuine friendliness behind the greetings on the beach. The community feels a lot more cohesive and a lot more appreciative of what a great place we live in.

I think it's fair to say the OCBC won both halves of the 2019-20 game.

In addition to putting together the club's high profile events, a great deal of perhaps unseen work is undertaken through the year by the Committee. One significant such piece of work undertaken by the Committee in the 2019-20 season was the updating of the OCBC Constitution.

A club's constitution is its rule book, and so it is important that this is fit for purpose. Our's wasn't. With the amendments which were sent to all Members, the revised constitution will guide the OCBC soundly in the years ahead. The motion will be introduced and moved shortly, however please be aware the Committee strongly recommends Members vote to adopt this amended constitution.

Our Committee has shown it is keen to continue to introduce new ideas, innovate the ones we have working and improve where we can. The new children's event pre-Christmas, the trapping initiative so well driven by Michelle Roberts and Natalie Hartnell, the new OCBC website, adoption of a new accounting and reporting system, different food offerings at events, the timely fundraising raffles around the community, all reflect the Committee's desire to continually try new or do things better.

The reality is that we as a Committee could not serve the community as we do without the generous help of dozens of volunteers across the year. Community members willing to give an hour or two of their time at an event, willing to prepare some food ahead of functions, or just willing to put their hand up when needed. We thank you sincerely for all you do for the OCBC and the Orere Point community.

Today gives us a chance to recognise and thank two such stalwart volunteers by giving them Life Memberships in the OCBC, and also today provides the opportunity to acknowledge some OCBC Community Heroes. We are a better community for the involvement of these people.

Just as vital as volunteers are our sponsors, and we're fortunate to again have a great group of club supporters and sponsors on our side. We're lucky in that our sponsors get us, and they get what we're doing here in Orere Point. They see a community that is tight, that is supportive and that is loyal. We greatly appreciate each and every bit of support we receive from our generous team of sponsors. Acknowledgement is due too for Natalie Hartnell's dedication to the sponsorship cause.

I need here to touch on the one negative which emerged to cloud the OCBC's sunny season. At the start of the club year, it became apparent there were some irregularities around the club's finances from the 2018-19 season. The Committee has taken the matter to the Police and we are working with them and with accounting advisors to fully understand the situation.

While the issue is with the Police, we are advised that we as a Committee or as individuals are unable to comment or reveal any further details at this point. We are aware that the issue has generated plenty of speculation, most if not all wildly unfounded. These irregularities do not put the OCBC's current, or ongoing, financial viability at risk.

What we can say however is that this current Committee is acutely aware of the situation and this has been a factor in their motivation to work so hard for the community in the last year. Most of our events have never been better.

The Committee has also taken some very concrete steps to ensure these irregularities can not reoccur. We have adopted new, transparent reporting processes, resulting in the different looking set of accounts presented today. We have established revolving two-year Committee terms where half the committee retire each year (and if they wish, stand again), retaining institutional knowledge around the Committee table. We have proposed amendments to the OCBC which have the elected Committee appoint their leaders rather than this be done in a beauty contest fashion at the AGM.

Returning to a positive note, the last year has seen the OCBC working closer and closer with our School. We see the school as a vital aspect of life in Orere Point. Good schools attract pupils and families, and ours is a good school.

In the last year we have supported our school in a number of ways ranging from helping with the kitchen upgrade, to the camp, to helping bring internet links through from the school to the hall.

We have great respect for the principal, staff and board of the school, and we're happy to get in behind their vision and plans when we can. I would like to record in this report our appreciation to Kerry Forse as Principal and Rebecca Tossell as Board Chair for all they do for the school and community, and for keeping the OCBC as involved as they do.

Our club continues to enjoy a strong relationship with the Auckland Council through the Franklin Local Board. We would like to use this Annual Report as an opportunity for the community to record our appreciation to the Council for the development of the new playground. It is enjoyed by a great many residents and visitors.

We continue to raise important issues with our representatives such as drainage and erosion problems at Orere Point, and the enforcement of Auckland Council's free camping regulations. We are making progress with the help of the Franklin Local Board, however Covid-19 is likely to delay or defer some proposed Council spending.

At the start of the 2019-20 season, I joined a Committee with tons of great ideas and the energy, commitment and positive approach to give these a go. I'm glad I did.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside each person on the Committee through the last season, and I can honestly say that, thanks in a very big way to their involvement, the OCBC and Orere Point are much better off. If you really want to get involved in doing the same, making this lovely place even better, why not think about joining or even volunteering to help the Committee that is elected today.

The 2020-21 season has begun well and we look forward to a positive and enjoyable year for all Members and friends of the Orere Community and Boating Club.

**Edward Pram, Chair, OCBC**