



FREDS PASS SPORT & RECREATION MANAGEMENT BOARD

2013 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Welcome and thank you all for attending the 2013 Freds Pass Sport & Recreation Management Board AGM. For those of you that do not know me, my name is Anthony Venes, I would like to begin by advising that Jane Cross has just recently resigned her position on the Board due to health reasons, and as a result, as Vice Chair I have been elevated to the role of Chairman in the interim.

An overview of the past 12 months at the Reserve has been highlighted by the continued improvement to infrastructure through the funds provided by the departments of Housing & Local Government and Sport & Recreation. This has seen;

- \$296k spent in the equestrian area on a new ablution block, storage sheds and the stables
- \$163k being spent on building maintenance and upgrades, which included the cottage, the public toilet blocks and the bee hive
- \$130k on the lights for the LB
- \$84k spent on the rugby fields
- \$22k spent on the playground at the Lake View Hall
- \$20k spent on fencing at the LSC fields

From a financial perspective it is a credit to Dirk Bakker and his team to be able to efficiently and effectively manage the organisation and provide a result that was favourable to budget. To achieve this was not easy and it meant that there needed to be austerity measures followed, which included notable savings in wages, whilst to ensuring that badly needed upgrades to the Reserves plant and machinery were still able to occur.

Unfortunately we have not been able to provide the same level of consistency in Board Members, since November 2011 we have had a total of 12 volunteers put their hand up to be a part of the Boards structure. In the past 12 months we have seen the resignation of Stuart Hand, Amanda Ruzsicska, John Ascoli and more recently Jane Cross.

On a positive note however we have Glenn Morcom and John Piening who came on after the last AGM as Casual Vacancies and we thank them for putting up their hand and being prepared to commit to the role. It is important that we also thank Cecilia Coleman, Matthew Salter and Judy Cole for their commitment to the FPSRMB and the time that they contribute to the role.

It is also pertinent that at this point we recognise the role of the FPSRMB and its function. Since being elected onto the Board it has been noticeable that the group is very much considered an operational committee that runs the day to day. This is in contrast to the definition of a Board which essentially is in place to hire the manager of the business and assess the overall direction and strategy of the business.

With this in mind it is important to recognise that the Reserve is a professional operation that needs to be directed strategically from above rather than operated from above, and that the time and efforts of the members who volunteer should be utilised to their full potential and level of expertise. There is no doubt that over the past 24 months that the approach has altered, however there is still further advancement to be made in this area, in order for us to see the Board operate towards a more high level management, strategy and directional role, rather than be tied up with the operational aspects. It is hoped that with this approach we have a better chance of engaging and maintaining the community members we require without fear of fatigue.

For the staff of the Freds Pass Reserve we thank those for their efforts over the past 12 months, especially in assisting the organisation to cope with managing the business after the loss of NTG funding that was important towards covering the financial burdens. As a result of this loss it meant operating one staff member down, as well as having to introduce other austerity measures in the operations of the organisation.

It is also pleasing to see the staff recognise the importance of OH&S and embrace the changes that had to be made in order for the Reserve to be compliant to the legislation, and see that the processes that have been developed by Dirk and his team as monitoring tools will ensure we continue to remain so. It is also important to recognise that the consistency in staff over the past 12 months has enabled the business to operate more efficiently and effectively and the Board congratulates the efforts of the Dirk Bakker and his team for their own going commitment to the organisation.

Unfortunately over the past 12 months we have had to endure a loss of revenue as a result of Northern Territory Government cutbacks and cost increases as a result of the heightened power and water expenses. We thank the Litchfield Council for their additional contribution to the FPSRMB operational account, which enabled us to cover the costs to continue financially managing the business.

Further to this we successfully managed to acquit the grants provided to us from Sport and Recreation and Housing & Local Government, within the negotiated time frames. It was disappointing that further funding from these departments, as was originally promised, was not forthcoming to the Reserve, and it was additionally saddening that there was no formal notification to advise of this funding ceasing with an outline to the reasons why.

As a board we will continue to work with the user groups in relation to ongoing changes and adaptations which currently includes;

- The introduction of a fair and equitable User Group fee structure, that is sound in methodology and manageable in dispensing.
- The transformation over to the Lease Agreements for the user groups, so as they align with the Lease arrangements between the Litchfield Council and the FPSRMB.
- Upgrade of the constitution, and
- The development of the Freds Pass Reserve Strategic plan, which the Board has engaged the services of Sharyn Innes Consultancies to work with the all at the Reserve to put this together. This plan will aim to shape Freds Pass Reserve and its direction over the next three years and enable us to be in a good position when funding opportunities arise. The Board hopes that all User Groups get behind this and provide Sharyn with the valuable input required for us as a group to identify our long-term aims and interests and the means for achieving them.

Finally the Board would like to thank the User Groups for their ongoing support and understanding as we continue to advance the organisation and its role within the community and the Litchfield Council for their ongoing support of the FPSRMB both in a financial capacity and through access to the enormous wealth of human resource acumen they provide.

It is also important that it is noted that the Board also recognises the dissatisfaction of the local MLA's towards our efforts and we will continue to work hard to build positive relationships in this area going forward.

We look forward to a productive 2014.

Regards



Anthony Venes

Chairman FPSRMB