

# Gold Coast Pickleball Association

## Presidents Report 2023

### Annual General Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

It gives me great pleasure to prepare and submit this Presidents Report at the 2023 AGM.

It's no secret that GCPA has grown to a substantial membership in a little under 6 years. Our current membership is at 650 and is growing daily.

The magic of pickleball works very quickly on all players soon after their first steps are taken onto the court. My reflection on that phenomena has produced some thinking that leads to commentary around the power of inspiration and celebration.

In terms of celebration there is much to see ,feel and enjoy.

Almost without exception both via all technologies or face to face , when asked how a long standing member or new member ,how was their last pickleball session, the response is most often, "It was fun".

It's what we all see, hear and feel on a regular basis.

The magic of pickleball has created many new friendships local, national and international. It has created travel opportunities. It has even created the need to celebrate in song as in the lyrics of 'Pickleball Family' .The songs future as a chart climber is unsure, however the lyrics carry the sentiments of friendship and fun you have ,when you are part of the Pickleball family.

The magic of inclusion and accessibility is fundamental to pickleball with the strong probability of addiction, of the best kind, to the sport. The strongest evidence and the best indicator is , the reality of all level of players returning to the courts on a very regular basis, investing in coaching opportunities and regular social and levelled play sessions. All having fun.

Indeed, I am seeing players that arrived as raw beginners , now challenging themselves at tournament level.

The magic of pickleball has created the opportunity for all of us to enjoy playing with the great care and assistance of volunteers. We know them as conveners. How good are these people who offer their time and friendship week after week to ensure the smooth running of the GCPA program?

These volunteers are extraordinary people providing their time to enable play at four different venues, each day of the week. Without them ,there is absolutely no possibility of providing playing opportunities for 650 members.

The 2023 committee members are to be thanked sincerely for their thinking, time, enthusiasm, wisdom and energy that resulted in the GCPA become the club with the greatest number of registered players in Australia.

Jeff Augustersen is retiring from the committee and I thank him for his committee work and particularly his dedication to accuracy and attention to detail and for his dedicated service to the Tallebudgera venue. I'm fairly sure Jeff will reappear in a familiar role in the near future.

Vicki Tamandal has served the committee with outstanding commitment to financial and all other matters. Vicki's ability to have several balls in the air simultaneously is second to none. Vicki is a great asset to GCPA members and committee and it fantastic to see Vicki nominate for the current elections.

David Bewley has acted as both elected member and volunteer minute secretary, preparing agenda and writing up minutes this year. That work is critical for the committee to thrive and grow the way GCPA has. David's committee work has been exceptional in developing Runaway Bay playing opportunities. David's wisdom and clear thinking will be missed greatly ,with David has not put himself forward for election and is not continuing as volunteer minute secretary. David has been a very significant voice at committee level.

Cheryl Parker is retiring from the committee . Cheryl has been a very valuable committee member as a very active member ,convening the Convener Roster for Currumbin and an active contributing member at meetings and GCPA events. Cheryl always offered strong opinions and made significant contributions to the social side of things as well. Cheryl's insights and contributions have been much appreciated and will be missed.

Anne A'court has not nominated for re-election and will be retiring from the GCPA Committee this year. Anne has been the driver behind the social scene and events planning and execution. Anne's attention to detail and to 'HAVING FUN' has been evident in the social side of GCPA planning and execution. Who will ever forget the GCPA Christmas Party 2022? Anne's contribution at committee level was very considered and very much appreciated.

Geoff Aitkin- Smith was newly elected member to GCPA committee in 2022. With a keen business knowledge , Geoff has added his tremendous skill set to committee group and has been invaluable in adding to committee discussion. The GCPA committee appreciated Geoff's work this year and the depth of his consideration and experience has been invaluable. Geoff has put himself forward for re-election 2023/4.

Richard Williams is also a new member of the current committee and has put himself forward for re-election. Richards contribution is significant to the committee through his very astute observations and analysis of player needs particularly at Runaway Bay where the day to day matters and needs of the players are dealt with very professionally. Richards contribution at committee level is always considered and meaningful.

With regard to inspiration there is much to celebrate. GCPA of today stand on the shoulders of the original four people who became the foundation committee. Their vision, energy , coupled with all subsequent elected committees, have created a club of 650+ members with Indoor and outdoor playing opportunity, a selection of four venues to play with the recent addition of sessions at Pizzey Park.

The development of the Currumbin site into dedicated courts and the upgrade of the clubhouse gave us a great start and remain a very popular playing venue. The future development of the Runaway Bay site is being discussed currently.

The Runaway Bay Team of Geoff and Richard assisted by David are very busy with current negotiations.

The reality is that we have outgrown all of our current play centres. For some time the current committee have been pursuing the notion of creating a dedicated pickleball centre of at least 30 courts located on the Gold Coast.

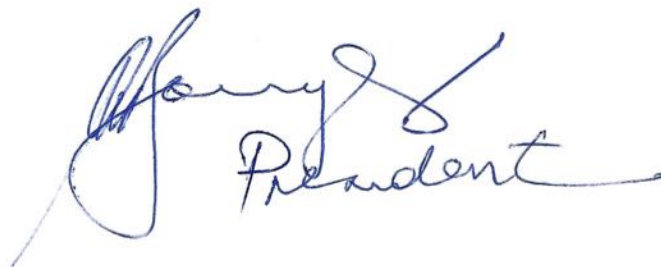
The current committee have begun preliminary discussions with a couple of Local councils regarding this opportunity. The options include the redevelopment of existing sites into dedicated pickleball sites and the other, greenfield development. Finding these opportunities is the challenge. It can be done. Currumbin HQ was developed after the discovery of a rundown tennis court complex.

Progress is slow and will require significant grants funding either way. That points to repurposing as an ideal option.

There has to be a disused large cemented area, with ample parking and possibly a clubhouse, out there somewhere.

The introduction of levelled play, the provision of multiple playing opportunities, the ladies doubles initiative, refurbished clubhouse, competitive play opportunities, hosting tournaments and the new lighting have all been achieved in recent times. Many of these initiatives have come through representation to the committee for consideration and subsequent inclusion to the GCPA program. With 650 members, it is a huge challenge for the committee to provide an equitable playing opportunity for all players.

I extend my personal thanks to the current and past committee members for the energy and enthusiasm offered to all members through their selflessness of putting themselves forward for election to carry GCPA through the next few years. I express my gratitude to the past, current and future committee members for what has been achieved and for what is certain to come in the future.

  
President

15th October 23