



COLEDALE R S L CLUB LTD

President's Report – Year Ending 2024

Dear Members,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present the President's Report for Coledale R S L Club Ltd for the year ending 2024. This has been a truly extraordinary second year for our Club's Board, marked by major achievements, exciting milestones, and continued growth.

Together, we've built on a strong foundation of community spirit, and I'm delighted to share the progress and success we've achieved.

Key Achievements in 2024

1. Financial Growth

We've made great strides financially this year. Our net profit grew from **\$24,854 in 2023** (excluding the one-off sale of poker machines for \$120,000) to **\$75,887 in 2024**.

Considering we recorded a **\$124,854 loss in 2022**, this turnaround of over \$200,000 in just two years is a huge achievement.

We also invested **\$100,000 into a term deposit** to help secure the Club's long-term financial future.

2. Award-Winning Volunteer Effort

One of the highlights of the year was seeing our Club's volunteer-led community revival recognised through several awards:

- Finalist **Lord Mayor's Award - Wollongong City Council**
- **Special Judges Award – NSW Clubs and Communities**
- **Illawarra Volunteer Group of the Year – NSW Volunteers**
- **NSW Volunteer Group of the Year – NSW Volunteers**

These honours are a testament to the commitment and hard work of our **incredible volunteers**, without them none of these would be possible.

A huge thank you to **David Lynch (Operations Manager)** for the leadership, experience, and heart you continue to bring to our Club.

To **Greg Todd (Hon. Secretary Manager)** and **Peter Lapham (Treasurer)** – your tireless efforts in these skilled areas, have built on the success of year 1.

To my fellow **Directors** – thank you for your strategic guidance and hands-on support across maintenance, cleaning, and events.

Together, this team has made it possible to run successful events, services, and daily operations.

Maintaining a team of **75 active volunteers** is an incredible achievement and truly reflects the strong sense of community and a one team environment we have built.

3. ANZAC Day

In partnership with the Coledale RSL sub-Branch, we hosted another successful ANZAC Day, with attendance matching last year's record numbers.

The club served **breakfast to over 350 people** and hosted a great game of two-up.

It was a big day for **Dave, directors, and the volunteer team** – setting up, cooking, serving, and cleaning up and their efforts were sincerely appreciated by the sub-Branch.

4. Facility Enhancements Through Grant Funding

Thanks to the **NSW Government's 24-Hour Economy Live Music Program**, we were able to significantly improve our facilities with both funding and skills support through conferences.

Upgrades included:

- **Double-glazed windows** – improved energy efficiency and noise control
- **Acoustic curtains** – better sound quality and improved noise control for our neighbours.
- **New stage lighting** – enhanced performance experience
- **New Improved projector** – for movie nights and major sports events.
- **Mobile AV system** – supporting solo performers and young artists.
- **External Marketing support** – to help promote our live music events daily and upgraded website.

Arts Round Table:

Through the support of our Patron **Maryanne Stuart**, we also hosted the first **Illawarra Arts Round Table** with **Minister for the Arts, Music and Transport, Hon. John Graham**. This was a valuable opportunity to collaborate with other local arts groups and raise concerns about local challenges including limited transport in our area.

5. Launch of Coalchella

In partnership with **Silhouette and A.C.**, we hosted the first-ever **Coalchella Music Festival**.

The event was a big success, drawing in over **300 attendees** and creating a vibrant, memorable atmosphere placing Coledale R S L club as a great venue to perform at.

Coalchella not only supports local musicians but also boosts the northern suburbs economy by bringing more visitors to our area. This was a big test for our volunteers and again, they rose to the challenge for a successful day under Dave's guidance.

6. Our Workforce

Firstly, our volunteers, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Thank you to **Dave Lynch**, whose hospitality experience and calm, thoughtful leadership continue to drive our growth, product partnerships and overall friendly welcome.

Volunteer coordination was led by the amazing volunteer **Genelle Todd**, with some volunteers reaching their **100-shift milestone** by the end of 2024 – and they keep coming back!

A big thank you also goes to:

- **Lauryn Hodder** – our finance expert
- **Jack Tyne** – full-time bar attendant and a key player in volunteer engagement
- **Casual paid bar staff** – their support during busy weekends and music nights has been essential.

These team members are a vital part of our strategy for long-term sustainability.

7. Food and Entertainment

Food. In 2024, we made a major shift from food trucks to launching our **in-house kitchen, Rosso Peppe**, run by **Claudio**.

This was Claudio's first personal kitchen venture, and he quickly built a great reputation for serving high-quality products, at a great price and being a part of our community. Building a reputation for Coledale R S L Club as a food destination, with many visitors from outside our region and we look to continue this into 2025.

Entertainment and Programs. Our focus being on inviting new visitors to our club and always being a welcoming all age venue.

- **Pool table** – attracting a younger crowd.
 - **Slushy machine and ice cream sales** – making the Club more family-friendly.
 - **Carpet bowls revival** – attracting new members with a new mat, running Thursday and Saturday afternoons.
 - **Bulli High School music program** – helping students with first-time performances and paid gigs.
 - A wide variety of **community programs**, including book launches, movie nights, comedy shows, art classes, and open mic nights.
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8. Membership and Community Engagement

Membership has continued to grow, reaching **1,400 members** at the time of our audit.

Our online presence has expanded significantly, a big thank you to work of volunteers **Dayna Cunningham** and **Jen Pope** for establishing and growing our social and marketing presence from 2023 to 2024.

- **4,000 Facebook followers**
- **2,800 Instagram followers**

This strong digital following helps us plan events that appeal to all age groups. We also proudly supported the following community groups:

- **Coledale Public School**
- **Bulli High School (Music Program)**
- **Coledale Oysters Swim Club**
- **Coledale Waves Football Club (Men's & Women's)**
- **Tough Guys Book Club**
- **Coledale Fishing Club**

9. Maintenance and Sustainability

A huge thank you to **Trent Amber from AG Solar**, who coordinated and donated the installation of **new solar panels and a converter**, helping us cut electricity costs and support sustainability goals.

Other improvements included:

- **New air conditioning system**
- **Fencing upgrades** to meet licensing standards.
- **Roof and drainage repairs**
- Introduction of **recycling programs** for bottles, cans, and paper

10. Long-Term Lease Secured

We've finalised a **long-term lease** with the Coledale R S L Sub-Branch (lessor), which gives us much-needed stability and reflects the strong relationship between our Clubs in supporting the Memorial Hall and our community.

This important milestone is important to the future of both clubs. It has been great to see the membership of Coledale RSL sub- Branch grow in 2024, testament to the leadership of President **Mick Conner** and Secretary **Glen Stewart**.

11. Clubs NSW Membership

We continued to strengthen our involvement with **Clubs NSW** this year.

Our secretary attended regular **Illawarra Zone meetings**, and thanks to **West's Leagues Club, Greg Todd** was sponsored to attend the **Clubs NSW AGM** – a fantastic opportunity to network and build skills.

Our Club was also featured on the **Clubs NSW podcast, magazine, and TV**, helping us reach more visitors on a state level.

The support we receive from **Clubs NSW** has been valuable – from staffing advice to legal and supplier assistance.

Looking Ahead to 2025

Our goals:

- To continue the long-term food option for our club, with a well know kitchen operator, who has met our brief for quality pub classic with a twist. A committee has been set up to help ensure a diverse view has been considered.
- Constantly refresh our product and program offering.
- Grow our sponsorships and community partnerships.
- Improve our technology and overall admin support.

Planned maintenance:

- Replace **external signage** due to rust.
- Continue **kitchen improvements**.
- Complete **key electrical upgrades**.

Acknowledgements

A sincere thank you to our amazing volunteers, staff, management, and members.

Special appreciation to our business partners and donors:

- **Maryanne Stuart**, our Patron
- **Thirroul AG Solar**
- **Willie the Boatman Brewing**
- **Collins Bookstore Thirroul**
- **West's Leagues Club**
- **Coalcliff surf club and Bombie Bar Team**
- **Thirroul Plaza Meats**
- **Bulli Greengrocer**
- **Bankstown Sports Club**
- **Imperial Security & Fire**
- **O'Donnell Hennessey and Taylor**, our auditors

Conclusion

2024 has been a year of growth, resilience, and community spirit. As we head into 2025, I'm excited to build on this momentum and continue creating a Club we can all be proud of.

It's a true honour to serve as President of such a passionate and inspiring community of people that make our club.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,



Melissa Ellery
President
Coledale R S L Club Ltd