

WYNDHAM HARNESS RACING CLUB

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022/23

Ladies and gentlemen, in moving the adoption of the club's annual report, a surplus of \$105,000 from this year's operations is reported. This can be attributed to income from track usage, stable complex rental, baleage sold, and cattle/lamb trading proving again to be very profitable for the club. Cash reserves for venue improvements is also being held.

In the past season the Wyndham Harness Racing Club celebrated our 100-year Centennial. It was great to be a part of and reminded us all of the fantastic history and pride the local volunteers, participants, and community have for the club, and also encourages me for the future of the club. The Centennial celebrations culminated with a fantastic weekend on the 17th and 18th of March with a function on the Friday night where past committee, volunteers, members, and participants joined together to catch up and reminisce about the 100 years of history. Followed by a great race day on Saturday which saw a huge crowd. The Wyndham Centennial Cup was taken out by a fantastic front-running drive by John Hay trained and driven 'Wheels Of Fortune'. It was great to see the locals get the Supremacy heat with 'Da Vinci' trained by Craig Ferguson and owned by the clubs Vice President Brendon Duffy and his family.

Special thanks must go to the Centennial organising committee that put together such a memorable weekend, especially Karen Milne and Vicki Hunter who made sure every detail was taken care of.

Another milestone for the club was the addition of a two-day meeting in Cromwell at the end of February to help Harness Racing grow its profile in the Central Otago region, this was successful and the club will build on this over the coming seasons. Thanks must go to David Anderson and Neil Bulling who helped the club with sponsorship and hospitality for the two days.

At the 6th April meeting the Group 2 Kindergarten Stakes was won by the Mark and Nathan Purdon-trained 'Vessem'. It was great to have Southland owners Stewart Gillan and his wife on course to receive the trophy. The Hunter family pace was taken out by 'Cya Art'.

Thanks to our members, sponsors and volunteers, along with the livestock graziers for your continued support of the club it is very important and much appreciated. Thank you to our caretaker Donald McKay and Jamie Agnew for gardening and presenting the venue in fantastic order. Thanks to the staff of Southern Harness Racing and Lindsay Beer for their efforts in the smooth running of race meetings.

Lastly thank you to my committee and their wives for their support and contributions. Special mention to Ian 'Stag' Hunter who is retiring from the committee this year. Ian is a Life Member of the club and has helped to make Wyndham the strong club it is today. Your knowledge and financial nous will be sorely missed at committee meetings. I wish you well in your retirement and I am sure we will see you at our race meetings in the future.

Bathan Muir
PRESIDENT