

## CEO REPORT – 2025

What a busy year!

2025 has certainly kept the Board of Directors, Management and Staff on their feet. As alluded to in the President's report, some big Capital Expenditure projects were kicked off, with the first one being the replacement of half of the Club roof. After months of work, the result was fabulous, however, during the replacement period, the Club lost the ability to hold functions and regular weekly activities on the top floor, therefore completion when it finally arrived was more than welcomed, so we could just get back to business. As the Board begins its 2026/2027 strategic plan, the top floor itself is marked down for a long overdue refurbishment – date to be decided in alignment with several other projects that are on the drawing board over the next three years.

The other major project that could not be ignored was the **Jordan Hall** development, which grew from a hole in the ground up into the Gladesville skyline during 2025. The 29 apartments contained in the building have started to go under the hammer and it hoped by Anzac Day next year, there will be at least 75% sold. The Ground floor retained by the Club, will see Management searching for tenants come mid-June 2026, ushering in an exciting time not only for the RSL itself, but all Gladesville.

From a P&L viewpoint, the Club realised a \$226,000 profit for the year, combating increased costs in the sectors of insurance, electricity, gas and wages. As touched on last year, the cost of doing business in Australia is tough, and compounded by further tightening of Government monetary strain, pressure is applied to the patron and how much readily available cash they are willing to spend on a night out. We thank all our members for spending their hard-earned dollars at the Gladesville RSL and Community Club.

Reform continues to dominate the club industry. Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism (AML-CTF) is a major focus as the Club industry works with AUSTRAC and other Clubs to support the necessary procedures to comply as an industry and individually within the best interests of ensuring this practice is eliminated. This is an important issue, that Gladesville RSL and Community Club are fully behind and are committed to improving leading into 31 March 2026, when NSW will realise increased responsibility in this area across the industry.

Membership remains stable and is no doubt about spending time together enjoying a beverage, winning a meat tray or grabbing a meal with the Family. Watching the NRL is something special at Gladesville RSL and Community Club and the **Front Row Bar** enjoyed great crowds this year, especially when it comes to the **WESTS TIGERS**, who filled the lounge week in, week out. The **West's Tigers** don't have the best win record either, so in 2026 if they can win string some more wins together, the Club will be forced to purchase additional seating.

Whilst on the **WESTS TIGERS**, the Club for the second successive season supported the NRLW team and had the No.3 Jersey allocated to the Club for the season as a sponsor. It has been fabulous getting

involved in Women's Sports and seeing these young ladies given the opportunity to play at the highest level.

2026 saw the return of an NRL Tipping Comp, the first time in many years, with both Members and Staff Competitions running in tandem.

**Congratulations to the Members and staff Winners:**

**1<sup>st</sup> – Nicholas Machinko – 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lindsay Cornwell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ben Matthews**

**1<sup>st</sup> – David Walsh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Chalkley, 3<sup>rd</sup> David Moore**

Through **ClubGRANTS**, the Club continues to contribute to organisations and projects which involve the local community and groups of need. This process is administered by a local committee, the Club's local council, and invited experts who provide advice on the broader social needs of the area. Gladesville RSL and Community Club are proud to welcome new organisations and retain those with historical connections to the Club in a year which saw over \$101,000.00 to the local Community.

Some of our beneficiaries are but not limited to:

- Gladesville Public School P&C
- Foster Care Angels
- Giant Steps Australia
- Be Unstoppable Foundation
- Muscular Dystrophy NSW
- Ryde Family Services (The Northern Centre)
- The Shepherd Centre for Deaf Children
- Ryde Dragon Boat
- Ryde Water Polo
- Gladesville Gymnastics
- Putney Rangers Football
- Soccer (Walking Football)
- Karate Club (RSL Youth Club)
- Wests Tigers (Women) NRLW
- Ryde Sports Foundation

On behalf of the Board and all Members, we thank **Jim Robertson** for his dedicated service as a Board Member that realised 27 years of service. **Jim**, who has now retired to Queensland, spent many years of his time on the Board as Vice-President and was an original member of the Jordan Hall Building Committee. In recent years, **Jim** remained Treasurer of the Club despite moving interstate and remained active across the telephone and zoom platforms. **Jim** is famous for the running and management of the Gladesville TAB for over 30 years, a true local and we wish him well in his retirement up on the Sunshine State.

On 25 May 2025, Gladesville RSL and Community Club welcomed **Gareth Aitken** back to the Board. **Gareth** won through to reappointment after three years away and along with incumbent Director **Lindsay Cornwell**, both were successful in winning 3-year terms. **Gareth** was never a stranger and still frequented the Club week in, week out whilst not in office, whilst **Lindsay** as always is a regular fixture.

The big change coming to Gladesville RSL and Community Club on **7 January 2026** is the “bumping in” of **Catering HQ** in the restaurant with “**The Glades Kitchen**” opening to Gladesville. Established in 1996, **Catering HQ** have been a big player in the Hospitality Industry and proudly provide catering services for over 15 Clubs as well as the Sydney Opera House and Powerhouse Museum. Experts in ala-carte and function cuisine, we welcome **Steve Sidd**, **Albie Aldahawi** and his team to Gladesville and wish them every success.

In the welcoming of the **Glades Kitchen**, we sadly say goodbye to **Pings**, who dazzled the Club with its banquets and food over many years. **Ping** (the person) was an institution here at Gladesville over recent years, and we wish **Lily** and him all the best in their future endeavors.

Lastly, my thanks to the Board of Directors for supporting myself and the management team. We have some big plans identified in our strategic plan, and I look forward to us delivering them to the members over the coming years. To the Leadership team - **Hamid Olyayani**, **Anthony Drew**, **Danni Star**, **Ben Naylor**, **Sam Chalkley** and **David Moore**, I look forward to working with you again in 2026. And lastly, thank you to **Ha** and **Lia** in our Finance and Administration sector for their tireless commitment to their duties.



**David Walsh**

**Chief Executive Officer**