CLUB WILLOUGHBY

Willoughby Legion Ex-Services Club Ltd

Club President's Report – 2026

Since our last AGM at the Willoughby Bowling Club your Club has passed through several monumental and historical milestones.

Jan 30th this year saw us hold our flag raising ceremony as well as the soft opening where we had over 300 in attendance testing our new operations team and all the facilities of your brand-new Willoughby Legion Ex-Services Club.
Club Willoughby re-opened to the public and began trading the following week -2nd of Feb.

5th May saw us proudly host the re-internment of the ashes of the ex-services and families who were originally resting in the rose gardens of the old Club. It was a poignant time of reflection and pride.
A special thanks to all the families who attended and to Mark Franklin of Macquarie Cemetery for lovingly and respectfully accommodating the urns patiently for 4 years.

May 20th, 2026, saw our official grand opening which was well attended by our members, our new neighbours and local dignitaries-Rear Admiral Lee Goddard CSC, Lady Mayor Tanya Taylor, Local Member Tim James and all those in the background giving the Club 100% of their donated time in making the event the success it was.

April 25th Saw the very first ANZAC Day commemoration back at the club in the new Memorial Gardens since the old club closed its doors forever back in 2022.
We could not have been prouder of how well attended this was- making it a significant success for us.
It would not have been anywhere near the polished event it was without the professional efforts of David Ross and Lieutenant Colonel Matt Vertzonis CSM, RFD (Retd), Rev Geoffrey R Usher, Commander Grange Chung, Royal Australian Navy, Catafalque Party – Provided by "A" Company of the
2nd/17th Battalion of The Royal New South Wales Regiment, Piper: Mr Stuart Robertson, Northern Suburbs Pipe Band, Willoughby Band, Conductor: Mr Dominic Longhurst, Bugler: Mr Matthew Hyam, Chatswood RSL Sub-Branch and the Willoughby Legion Chapter, Chatswood RSL Club Ltd and Willoughby Legion Ex-Services Club Ltd, Willoughby City Council.

The Clubs Operations team has been finetuned to a well-oiled machine with Kellie at the helm following Mario's departure. Mario had been the driving force behind all the finer details of allowing the Club to be financially stable before opening our doors. We Thank him hugely for getting us over the line and wish him and his family well in Europe.

Kellie and her dedicated team have become part of the integral character of our new Ex-Services Club and it has been interesting to see the development of the relationship that has blossomed, above all expectations, between us and the membership which has grown from 462 to nearly 8000 in less than 12 months! There is still a lot to be done though. Level 1 contracts have finally been signed with our friends from Shuang confirmed as the new/first tenant. Hyecorp won the contract for the building-work over some very competitive tenders, the clear advantage with Hyecorp is they're of intimate knowledge of every nut and bolt of the building.

Finally, a massive Thank You to your dedicated board and their families throughout the year yet again– Marise, Liz, Chris, Ron and a special thankyou to Greg McNally who recently stepped down from the board. The club is indebted to Greg for his litigation diligence and thoroughness.



Oct 2026
Vester Campion- President

Lest We Forget