



## **SOUTHERN CROSS ARCHERY CLUB**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023**

#### **Pennell Reserve Master Plan.**

After reaching out to council to confirm their position, a meeting with the co-ordinator of planning for council occurred at the start of September at the club. Several points were raised and clarified during the meeting, the key points being:

- Council is aiming to have the master plan presented to councillors before the end of the year.
- Building will take a while to commence but will start at the other side of the reserve, with the building of a new Pavilion near the playground (this will not affect the running of our club).
- Council sees the value of our club in that it provides a unique sport that caters to people who may not be interested in team sports such as Football and basketball, etc. They realise that not many council areas have an archery range within their area, Council also see our growth and increasing popularity and as such wants to retain our club in their district.
- Council will not commence working on our side of the reserve until somewhere has been located for our club to move to, somewhere that is suitable for the club.
- Council will require the club's input as to location, as we are in a better position to advise what is required in a suitable range.

#### **Come and Try**

Early this year we moved from a manual email-based booking to an online booking system via our website (thanks to Kayla for discovering and implementing this functionality).

This system has reduced the workload in booking people in and has created a smooth experience for members of the public.

Our sessions are booked out usually 6 weeks in advance, Turnout has been high, with usually over a dozen in attendance, however due to the long wait times between booking and attending it is possible that some are forgetting, therefore we have started the process of sending reminders out a week in advance.

We have been fortunate in expanding our come and try instructor base to now include both Iris and Kayla. I am very grateful to our instructors Iris, Kayla and Greg for running the weekly come and try sessions. Without the effort they put in we would not be able to run these sessions.

These sessions an essential corner stone of the club, not only do they provide a service to the community, but they also provide the club with a source of income and new memberships.

New memberships are essential, as with all clubs there is an inevitable turnover of members. Not replacing lost members will cause the club ink to shrink over time and our existence as a club may be threatened.

To keep our sessions running, allow for leave, sickness, and to ensure the few instructors we have don't get burned out, the club will again be asking for more members to volunteer for level 1 training to share in running the sessions in the near future.

## **Membership**

Membership I am happy to say is on the rise, and on the rise significantly. From the last AGM in Nov 2022 there were 53 members, currently, as of the start of November there are 83 members, this equates to approximately a 56.6% increase in just under 12 months.

This fantastic growth can potentially be attributed to several factors, the first being this is the first full year with no COVID restrictions, and people are now looking to get out and about and engage more with others.

Secondly the committee has taken several steps to engage, and in turn, retain our members, these steps include reducing shooting fee's, starting a quarterly league (thanks to Greg) and conducting regular workshops (thanks to David).

## **Club improvements**

We have implemented several improvements including:

- Purchasing shades for behind the shooting line.
- Combination locks to secure the Target Shed and Tuning Shed
- New bow and tuning equipment (including bow press, vices, bow scales, etc)

A significant amount of work has been done on updating our website (which is still ongoing) and we have moved away from the old wix website altogether.

## **Constitution and Policies**

As mentioned in last year's report, Archery Victoria has detailed a set of Club Accreditation requirements for affiliation with Archery Victoria and Archery Australia. Part of this requires:

- a review of the club's constitution and bylaws (this has been completed and put to a vote).

- An update the Working with Children Register
- Child Safe policy and procedures – the initial draft has been created and is in final stages of development, this is anticipated to go live by the end of year.
- Member Protection policy and procedures – a draft has been created and submitted to committee for review.

Several other policies have also been created and are being reviewed by committee at present.

### **Future direction and actions**

- Further action on policies is required, finalising the child protection policy is almost complete, along with several other miscellaneous policies.
- Further work on documenting, formalising, streamlining and where possible automating processes.
- Further expansion on our instructor base.
- Further investigation into potentially reducing shooting fees.
- Further work on engaging our members.

### **Final note**

Finally, I would like to thank both:

The committee: David Nguyen, Clive Baker, Kayla Bennet, Greg Lindh, Jenny Whipp and Richard Cottrill.

And our instructors: David Nguyen, Iris Qi, Kayla Bennet and Greg Lindh.

Who have put in many hours of their precious time to ensure this club runs as smoothly as it does (especially Greg who is constantly making target faces for us to shoot).