

Chairman's Report

It is my privilege to deliver the Annual Report for Waikato Hockey Association (Inc) for the financial year ending 30 November 2017.

Our Strategic Plan was scheduled for a revision in 2017. We commenced the revision last year and consulted with a variety of individuals within our hockey community. However, we have placed that review on hold pending the imminent completion by Hockey New Zealand of its nationwide and far reaching Strategy Delivery Review.

As I mentioned in last year's report, the challenge for us all is not to be complacent. While we may have significant progress as to how we deliver hockey in our region, we must look beyond what we have achieved so far. We need to work towards setting new and higher goals for our Association and our hockey community. The journey towards becoming New Zealand's leading hockey association is not without its challenges. We must learn to anticipate and adapt to changes.

Despite being vigilant about our finances in a competitive market with ever reducing community funds available for sport generally, the Board regrets to report a loss of approximately \$45,000.00 in this financial year. This is a disappointing outcome especially after returning a surplus in the 2016 year.

The deficit is attributed mainly to the loss of the \$30,000 funding by Kiwisport and the reduction of Academy fees by around \$25,000 as we tried to take some of the time pressures off the school kids during the hockey season. Grants and sponsorships were less than was budgeted for, but an increase from 2016. Most of the focus for the 2017 year was funding for major projects through the Trust. The satellite turf fees cost us an extra \$11,000 due to the increase in player numbers. Suffice to say that the Board recognises that it is imperative our Association to return to surplus in this coming financial year and more importantly, to continue to do so in the years to follow. To this end, the Board has approved a budget to provide a reasonable surplus in the 2018 financial year and have taken steps to ensure that the financial sustainability of the Association is given the highest priority.

On the other hockey fronts, the 2017 year has provided another significant season for WHA and our hockey community. We enjoyed successes both on and off the turf and continue to make significant progress in the development of hockey in the Waikato region.

Our Waikato representatives' age group teams have had notable success. For example, our Senior Men's team won the National Senior Competition in Wellington after a nail-biting finish, U18 Girls came 2nd and our Under 15 Boys' team earned themselves the bronze medal. This success was further bolstered by the impressive efforts made our players in the national secondary school teams, the regional Midlands teams and National teams where many of our Waikato players are represented.

The 2017 year also allowed us to look at how the administration and delivery of hockey programmes can be better delivered. With the departure of Sam Brown, our Hockey Development Manager, for a coaching role in UK, we took the opportunity to utilise our up and coming hockey players to help with the delivery of hockey programmes in schools.

The Board would like to thank our Chief Executive Officer, Declan Wyndham-Smith for his work, energy and leadership and the many hours he and his team, including the Finance Officer, Kirsten Brinkworth, have put in to keep the organisation running as smoothly as it possibly can. Declan's attached CEO Report provides an excellent summary of Waikato Hockey's accomplishments and challenges that are in front of us.

The Board recognises that there are many people who have made significant contributions to Waikato Hockey in 2017 which have helped the Association to continue to grow and prosper. These groups include the volunteers on Senior and Junior Divisions Committees, our umpires and representative coaches, assistant coaches, team managers and support people. Your work means a lot to the Association and on behalf of the Board, I thank each of you for your time, effort and sacrifice.

I also want to thank all Club and School volunteers. A huge amount of volunteer hours go into running your Clubs and your School teams and we are mindful that without the sum of what each and every one of you do, and often selflessly, Waikato Hockey cannot operate its programmes and competitions in a meaningful way.

Finally, I thank each of the Board members for their contributions in 2017.

Truman Wee

CHAIRPERSON and PRESIDENT