**President’s Report 77th AGM of the WDSAC**

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 77th AGM of the Whangarei Deep Sea Anglers club. For the second consecutive year, due to the unwelcome effects of covid 19, not all of our members are able to be with us for our AGM. Lucky as many of us are to live in this beautiful part of the country, the fact that all transport moves to the north through Auckland means that we are effectively living in a cul-de-sac, subject to circumstances out of our control. All we can do is hope that some form of normality will return before the rapidly-approaching summer season.

Despite covid and it’s unwelcome effect on our business, the club has had a successful year financially. The bistro has continued to attract favourable comment from visitors and members and has contributed handsomely to our income. The bar has also been profitable. We have also maintained our membership numbers, which is pleasing.

I want to give a big thankyou to all of our staff. They have all risen magnificently to the challenges posed by operating under the restrictive pandemic regulations. This year we had two major changes in the staff. Firstly, Sue Ellis, who had been our office manager for many years, moved on and was succeeded by Samantha McBeth. Those of you who have interacted with Samantha have universally been impressed with her professional manner and her new-broom approach to the job. Later in the year our long-standing Bar Manager, Tru Nicholson also retired. Jared Wellington and Brenda Morgans have made a seamless transition into the bar operation.

**Sponsors**

A huge thankyou to all of our sponsors. The Sponsors Evening and auction of the grid map plus other signage around the club was a great success. Welcome to the new sponsors and thanks to all of you who have supported us through thick and thin. In this regard, some of the challenges faced by the Committee this year included the fact that air travel remains a dream for most of us, meaning our traditional contest prizes comprising travel to Vanuatu are no longer available. Our major fishing gear sponsor, Shimano, has had extreme difficulty in securing the equipment we normally offer as prizes in our contests. We have had to be creative in our prize offerings and continue to re-evaluate this going forward.

**Fishing**

What’s that, I hear you ask. Well, though the fishing was not especially good this year, it was certainly better than last year. Once again it started out well with very patchy fishing in the main season, then a good run in the late season. Unless, that is you were able to fish the west coast, where the fishing was phenomenal and the easterly winds were often favourable.

**Repairs and maintenance**

Last year I talked about the need to renovate the outside deck. The deck project is well in hand, thanks to very generous sponsorship from ITM and a series of working bees.

A renovation of the bar is a potentially very expensive business, and the Committee has not yet settled on what can or should be done. We have commissioned an engineering report on structural issues associated with the bar renovation and the new committee will be charged with progressing this project when an economically feasible option is identified.

I personally want to thank the Committee for their efforts this year. To our retiring members; John Robbins, Donna Maine, Dylan Christie and Brenda Saul; well done on your hard work on behalf of the Club. There are also a lot of members who continue to contribute in all sorts of ways. Working bees, erecting and taking down the big tent, delivering firewood and assisting with club events and contests are all tasks that are largely accomplished through volunteer workers. Thank you all. Finally I would like to congratulate our Patron Stuart Smith on his recent 93rd birthday.