

Geelong Pickleball Club

President's Report – First AGM

July 30th, 2025

Good evening everyone,

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather tonight, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation. I pay my respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging, and extend that respect to any First Nations people here with us tonight.

It is with great pride—and a healthy dose of disbelief—that I present the very first President's Report for the Geelong Pickleball Club.

When we launched in July 2024, we were the first official Pickleball club in Geelong. One small step for Pickleball... one giant leap for paddle-wielders across the region! And what a year it's been.

From day one, our mission was clear: to offer a space that promotes health, wellbeing, and social connection. Pickleball may be a game, but it's one that brings people together—no matter your age, skill level, or background. Our club thrives on being **welcoming, safe, and inclusive**. Whether you're 12 or 86 there's a place for you in the Geelong Pickleball club family.

We know that sport isn't just about fitness—it's about connection. It's about finding your tribe, celebrating wins and losses, and sharing a post-game laugh over a missed shot or when you've knocked yourself out with your own paddle. It's those small, joyful moments—on and off the court—that turn a group of players into a genuine community, and a simple game into something so much more meaningful.

I would now like to bring your attention to our highlights and achievements since our inception:

What a list! So strap yourself in...

- Welcomed over **327 members**, making us the **second largest Pickleball club in Victoria**—and growing fast, with **86 new users in just the last four weeks**.
- Almost 1200 people are registered as users with our club

- Conducted 78 induction sessions for 350 people as well as providing come-and-try sessions for corporate and community groups, including Geelong Rainbow Sports, Salvation Army, Move Physio, and Tresidder Insurance Group.
- We have conducted over 200 individual and group coaching and skills and drills sessions for over 120 people
- Opened a **second venue at Newcomb Secondary College** to help meet demand. So we now run **11 playing sessions per week**— well up from humble beginnings.
- Clocked over **17,134 hours** of member court time at the Y. That's a whole lot of dinks, drives and drop shots!
- Developed a **state-of-the-art website, booking system, and app**, thanks to the brilliant work of **Pat**—a game-changer for our operations.
- Secured **\$12,000 in grant funding** to increase participation and develop our strategic plan.
- Ran **two seasons** of Friday Night League and introduced a range of playing formats to keep members challenged and interested
- Initiated and hosted **coaching, referee and first aid courses** to support player volunteer development.
- Hosted the **Australian Masters Cup** and both **Regional and State events**.
- Ran a fantastic trivia night and other fun social events.
- Partnered with Move Physio to develop a suit of online warmup videos in an attempt to reduce player injuries
- And last but no means least delivered our first Geelong **Mini Cup** to wrap up the year in style. Congratulations to all the participants and the volunteers who helped out over the weekend and a special mention to Pat for initiating, planning and delivering a fantastic event.

Pretty impressive in 1 year!!!

Challenges

Of course, it hasn't all been smooth sailing. Like any new club, we've faced a few challenges:

- **Court time** remains our biggest constraint. Demand is outstripping supply, especially in the evenings. So for our continued growth we need to look at ways to secure additional space a challenge for the new committee.
- Like many clubs, **volunteer burnout** is real. We are so grateful to our current Duty Managers, Committee members and other volunteers but we need to share the load so the fun doesn't fizzle..

Thank Yous & Shout Outs

We absolutely could not have achieved all this without the support and effort of so many. A few special shout-outs:

- **The Y, Geelong** – thank you for letting us call the Y our home.
- **PiRAT Pickleball** – thank you for backing us particularly in those early days.
- **Jess McDonald** from **Move Physio & Pilates** – your support and partnership have been wonderful.
- Our incredible **Duty Managers** and session helpers (Pat, Jenny, Leonie, Di and John, Peter and Justine, Adam, Jason, Leigh and Sue, Geoff, Deb, Ingrid, Beau, Warren, Margaret, Jordie) Hopefully I haven't missed anyone, and of course **Jill Evans** for coordinating the team on a weekly basis.
- Our Coaches who run our induction sessions Pete, Jenny, Pat, Sue & Leigh, Leonie, Geoff, Deb, Jordie
- Our **Social Committee – Jenny, Justine and Kerry** – you've brought the fun and kept the vibes high.
- Our stellar **Committee: Pat, Jenny, Peter, Leigh, Sue, Geoff, and Deb**—and former committee members **Dean Lennon, Andy Butson, and Lisa Smith**. Your time, energy, and commitment have built this club from the ground up.

And finally—**to all of you**, our members: thank you. You show up, you play hard, you support each other, and you make this club what it is. It's your laughter, your encouragement, your love of the game that makes this something truly special and a great club to belong to.

Here's to an even bigger, bolder year ahead. Let's keep dinking and dreaming!

Thank you,

Caroline Jordan (Jordie)

President, Geelong Pickleball Club