

On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Burnie Athletic Club (BAC) we welcome all of you to the 129<sup>th</sup> Caterpillar Underground Mining Burnie New Year's Day Carnival.

The BAC wishes to express its sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the preparation of the 129<sup>th</sup> New Year's Day Carnival

To our valued corporate partners who have responded to the call and share in our vision of the future and for what it means to retain and grow an important part of the Tasmanian heritage. In capturing the carnival theme of the *City of Makers* we are celebrating not just a sporting tradition but the point of difference in what we do well in this community and excel in exporting across Tasmania, Australia and the World.

We wish to thank the Burnie City Council and staff for their continued support, particularly with Events Marketing and Business and Recreation, IT support via TAS Communications and the professionalism of the ground staff with the preparation of West Park.

In addition the BAC recognises and says thanks to the substantial support given by:-

- Tasmanian State Government
- Sports Carnivals Association of Tasmania
- Richard Welsh and Epic Events and Marketing
- John Craven and Caribou Publications
- Tasmanian Axemen's Association officials and volunteers
- Cycling Tasmania officials and volunteers
- Tasmanian Athletic League officials and volunteers

The Club welcomes all of the competitors from the three sporting disciplines and particularly thanks the interstate and international competitors and officials for supporting Burnie. We wish you all the best of luck and trust that when you leave you have fond memories of our sporting heritage.

The BAC has been well served by many generations who have guided and served this Club with distinction over its 129 years. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication and providing a pathway for future generations to follow. Over the last twelve months the BAC has committed significant resources towards ensuring we remain a progressive and sustainable club. This includes:-

- Committing to working through strategic planning
- Ratifying a new and contemporary constitution
- Formally accepting the nomination of 12 new members

Now enshrined in the BAC Constitution under Objects and Purpose of the Club is the following:-

"In recognising that the competitive sports are exhilarating for spectators, the core purpose of community events such as the Club promotes, should be to inspire the wider population to become active and adopt healthy lifestyles choices through either organised sports or personal pursuits which instils fitness and wellbeing."

The BAC also acknowledges and thanks two recent retiring Members and past Presidents in Mike McKenna and Bruce Jackson for their many years of service.

We have the opportunity to grow the Burnie New Year's Day Carnival and the Club has a strategy to achieve that end. As a starting point, the Burnie 2015 New Year's Day Carnival was again awarded the Tasmanian Carnival of the Year in the 2014/15 season. Planning is well underway for the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 with our aim to attract 10,000 patrons.

In putting our hand out to the community we have been blessed with the support of the following not-for-profit community groups who have volunteered their time to support free family entertainment:-

Make a Wish

Five O First Legion

Maddington's Child Care

Kommunity Kids

Peter Skvaril

Reflections Dance Studio

Burnie Lions

Salvation Army

• Fairy God Mothers

LEO Club

• Life Boat 14

Burnie SLSC

Lastly, to the spectators and patrons who have come here today we thank you for your show of support and trust that you leave this evening having been excited by the day's entertainment.

## Ricky Aitken

President of the Burnie Athletic Club