

June 2023

Dear members,

Thank you for being loyal Melbourne Rangers Club Members for the last 40 years. During all these years we have strived to provide the best events at an affordable price.

However, in the last few months our costs have risen sharply to host functions owing to headline inflation being at around 7%. Our public liability insurance has also seen an increase of more than 15% in 12 months. Membership fees have been capped at the present levels for the last 5-10 years, which is not in line with present memberships of other clubs offering similar activities.

Another challenge that has faced the club is the lack of support for our functions which automatically increases the per-head price. The club needs to commit to halls, caterers, and bands in advance which results in a minimum outlay required for functions. The cascading effect of this is that events culminate in losses for the club. Put simply, the club is not achieving the critical mass for functions to either break even or make a marginal profit.

If we continue to subsidise events from the present cash reserves, the reserves will be eroded over a period of years. While some would argue that this is inevitable, I believe that this should not be the end game, but rather we strive for the continued survival of the club.

After carefully reviewing the financials, we must make the difficult decision of increasing the various membership fee categories as follows effective 1st July 2023:

\$45 Non Pensioners – Family

\$30 Non Pensioner – Single

\$30 Pensioners - Family

\$20 Pensioner - Single

\$25 Interstate/Overseas

Present average membership support at functions is tracking at around 60-70 members per event. This is about 50% down from pre-pandemic function numbers which were pushing 120.

We are hoping that some of the marginal membership increases will go towards offsetting potential subsidies that the club will need to tip in for loss-making functions.

We are committed to providing you with the best events and appreciate your understanding in this situation.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

ROBERT STOKOE

AAIMRC PRESIDENT