

## President's Report – AGM 2025

Kia ora Members,

Each year brings its own set of challenges and triumphs and 2024/25 was no exception. This past year was marked by both significant achievements and heartfelt farewells, all of which remind us of the value and strength of our Club community.

---

### In Memoriam

We sadly said goodbye to a few members including three of our Life Members and Patron all of whom made enormous contributions to the Club over many decades:

- **Blue Stephens** (Patron)
- **Ralph Blanchard**
- **Felix Davy**

Their legacy of service and dedication will never be forgotten. Moe mai rā — rest in peace.

---

### Club Improvements

We continued to invest in our facilities, delivering tangible improvements that have enhanced both the look and feel of the Club. Highlights include:

- **Floor repairs completed**
- **Bathroom upgrades completed**
- **New asphalt surfaces**
- **Doug Ford's award-winning mural**, which proudly earned the *Resene Professional Mural of the Year*

These upgrades help create a more welcoming and functional space for members and visitors alike.

## Financial Year in Review

This past year marked our **first financial loss since 2017/18**, when I became President. However, this was **planned and budgeted** — after several years of saving, we reinvested into the Club to secure its future.

Key factors affecting the bottom line:

- A **3-week closure** in June for essential floor work impacted bar and restaurant income.
- Staffing challenges, especially over the **Christmas period**, limited our ability to fully benefit from the busy season.
- Management turnover added operational strain and increased costs.

Despite these hurdles, we are **well-positioned** moving forward — with new leadership in place and a strong team driving us ahead.

---

## Investing in the Future

Looking ahead, we've taken smart steps to strengthen our long-term sustainability:

### Solar Power Installation

Already saving the Club thousands — and will easily pay for itself in 6 years, considering rising energy costs and added usage from our new cabins.

### Passive Income from Cabins

We now have **three rentable cabins** in the carpark generating steady income, thanks to the hands-on work of Glenn Rangitonga.

---

## Leadership Transition

After 7 ½ years as President, I'll be stepping down — but I'm not going far. I'll continue serving the Club as **Treasurer**, a role I've effectively been supporting behind the scenes for years. It's time to pass the torch.

Please welcome **Glenn Rangitonga** as your incoming President. Glenn has given countless hours to the Club and brings calm, practical leadership. I'm confident the Club is in great hands.

---

## ☀️ Recognising Service – Life Member Nominations

The turnaround of this Club has not happened by accident. In 2018, we were on the brink:

- 3 months behind on bills
- Internal conflict on the committee
- Calls to sell the property
- Facing **imminent liquidation**

Thanks to the generosity of members, including \$100,000 worth of loans from our Patron and members (which we were pleased to pay back with interest within a year) and the **extraordinary commitment of our committee**, we not only survived, we **thrived**.

That core group worked tirelessly, hands-on, often behind the scenes, for years. Today, the Club is financially sound, socially vibrant, and the outside areas are now fully licensed — and it's time to formally recognise that effort.

We have already honoured **Pablo** and **Craig** with Life Memberships in 2023. Now, I ask for your support as we propose to honour another four founding committee members of the Club's turnaround with **Life Memberships** at this year's AGM.

---

### ✂️ Glenn Rangitonga

Committee member since 2017

- Built the front deck, outdoor furniture, bathrooms, maintenance and managed the floor/asphalt projects
- Spearheaded the cabins project
- Donated equipment and materials
- Calm, community-focused voice of wisdom

### ✂️ Gary Kite

Committee member since 2005

- Vast Club knowledge

- Regular at working bees and raffles
- Essential presence at AGMs and door checks
- A reliable and reasoned voice on the committee

### ✂ John Joensen

Committee since 2012, Secretary since 2018

- Built the garden bar acoustic fence at well below cost
- Key to licensing and compliance work
- Taking a week off work each year to submit complex DIA licensing paperwork
- Duty Manager, raffle seller, maintenance volunteer

### ✂ Debbie Dalbeth

Committee since 2016, President since December 2017

- Secured and renewed Club and Bowling Club licenses
- Submit all DIA and Society compliance
- Steered the Club from near liquidation to success
- Managing the Club between managers, even working the bar and courtesy van

These members have not only governed — they've **gotten their hands dirty**, worked weekends, and pulled the Club back from the brink. Their life membership is more than deserved.

---

### Final Thoughts

To all members, sponsors, staff, and volunteers: **thank you** for your support over the years. This Club exists for — and because of — its members. I am proud of what we've achieved together and excited for what lies ahead.

Let's continue the momentum.

Ngā mihi,

**Debbie Dalbeth**

*Outgoing President, Raglan Club Inc.*