

## Registrations open for Second Annual Conference

Registrations have opened for the Services Clubs Association's second Annual Conference to be staged at the Hyatt Hotel in Canberra from 6-9 November 2003.

Entitled "Managing in a dynamic environment .... a positive approach" the conference will feature a range of expert speakers on topics ranging from corporate governance, disaster recovery planning, food safety and service, gaming legislation, email marketing, minimizing insurance risks and using music to boost your business. It is designed to provide delegates with sound practical advice they can take back to their clubs and implement.

The keynote address will be delivered by former ABC foreign correspondent and Sixty Minutes reporter, Jeff McMullen who will look beyond the many wars he has covered in his 35 year television career and address the challenge of building a more peaceful world and the role clubs can play.

Experienced adventurer, marketing consultant and former army officer, Charlie Lynn, who regularly leads corporate treks across the notorious Kokoda Trail, will use those experiences in building strength, adversity, courage and mateship as a lesson in leadership and teambuilding.

Conference MC will be John Blackman, whose humour, familiarity and rapport

with listeners and viewers alike have made him one of the most visible personalities in Australian show business, with widely acknowledged acclaim from his peers and associates.

The conference, to be sponsored by Aristocrat, will open with a Remembrance Service and welcome reception at the Australian War Memorial on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November and be followed by conference sessions on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November, concluding at lunchtime on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

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## Tax spells doom for services clubs

A survey of 49 services clubs – including member and non-member clubs – shows that three-quarters of them will be trading unprofitably by 2010 as a direct result of the new State Government gaming tax.

Rather than the impact of the tax being restricted to the larger clubs, as predicted by the State Treasurer, the damage to the industry is widespread. The survey figures have been independently reviewed by Lawler Partners.

The survey results have been sent to and meetings sought with, the State Premier, Mr Carr and Treasurer, Mr Egan, Minister for Gaming & Racing, Mr McBride, Leader of the

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# ***From the CEO***

*Graeme Carroll*

## ***Harm minimisation review***

The NSW Government's recently announced Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) inquiry into harm minimisation measures for problem gamblers has been welcomed by the Association. The inquiry is expected to be completed by mid next year.

The Association believes the review will provide an opportunity for the industry to ensure that the continuation or introduction of harm minimisation measures are evidenced based and not as a result of reaction to public perceptions.

As part of the investigation, IPART will call for public submissions and meet with organisations representing industry and community groups. These groups will be asked to comment on existing programs and suggest other possible measures.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are still being finalised. The Minister for Gaming and Racing, Grant McBride, says he expects the findings of the inquiry will help determine government policy and ensure all future decisions relating to harm minimisation measures are evidenced based.

The Association will be mounting a submission to the Review and the views of members will be sought when the Terms of Reference are announced.

## ***Members approve constitutional changes***

A special meeting of the Association has passed a series of changes to increase member voting powers and Board representation.

The proposed amendments are seen as a way of improving the input of all categories of membership in determining Association policy.

Proportional voting rights have now been introduced for all members on the basis of three voting delegates for Category 1 Members, two voting delegates for Category 2 Members and 1

voting delegate for Category 3 members - relative to subscription fees.

The changes also provide for representation of all categories on the Association's seven member Board of Directors with one position to be held by a Category 3 Member club; two positions by Category Two clubs and not less than four to be held by Category One clubs.

The new voting rights come into force at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in November while the representation on the Board will not commence until the terms of the current Board expire in November 2004.

## ***Government moves to improve clubs' corporate governance***

The Minister for Gaming & Racing has announced new plans to define what the government expects from the club industry in the key areas of corporate governance, probity and financial and community accountability.

While the Association is prepared to embrace the concept it wants to ensure any measures introduced are properly researched and can demonstrate long term benefits for the industry.

Mr McBride has announced the formation of a Club Industry Taskforce to help establish the guidelines. He says the nine member council will include both government, industry and employee representatives and it is expected to play a significant role in determining future government policy for the state's 1400 clubs.

The Association agrees with the Minister's proposals to develop a long term plan for the industry, particularly one which provides a period of stability and certainty to their strategies.

The Club Industry Taskforce will look at a broad range of issues including a code of conduct for clubs; a statement of objectives; reporting procedures; governance; probity for club directors; contract arrangements; and management agreements.

The Minister says the Taskforce is expected to assess community contribution programs, the role of clubs in the community and obligations for club

directors. Reporting and accountability requirements will be examined, along with contract arrangements, management agreements and a framework of compliance principles.

He anticipates there will be amendments to the Registered Clubs Act as a result of the Taskforce's recommendations. A preliminary report is expected by the end of this year, with new legislation to follow.

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### ***Conference registrations open***

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held during Saturday afternoon, while the conference dinner – at a special venue to be announced – will be held on the Saturday evening.

For golfers, the optional Tooheys Golf Challenge will be staged at the Gold Creek Country Club on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November.