



## **Southern United Hockey Club Inc**

Men, Women, Masters and Junior Hockey

### **Southern United Hockey Club President's 2020 Report**

Whilst there is no 2020 Winter Competition to reflect upon due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southern United Hockey Club (SUHC) and its community have many reasons to celebrate. Our community illustrated its vibrancy and connection even in isolation.

Firstly, I would like to extend my appreciation towards the volunteers and committee members in 2020 who had to adapt to many unprecedented challenges. We were very fortunate to have numerous individuals work behind the scenes to facilitate SUHC's return to play in 2020 – on more than one occasion. Efforts were directed towards keeping up to date with changing community sport recommendations, updating SUHC's return to play guidelines, drafting training timetables without access to lights and preparing the Kingston Heath Reserve facility to ensure SUHC members could return safely and in line with return to play guidelines.

COVID-19 could not stop SUHC's Social Committee. Led by Phoebe Wilcock and Petra Okhuizen, the Social Committee launched the inaugural ISO Fun Run, encouraging SUHC's community to complete a 5km or 10km walk, run, ride or row in an effort to reconnect, stay fit and raise money for our Club. In just two weeks, participants covered over 1,000 km and raised close to \$2,000. The Social Committee's effort succeeded in keeping the club connected and engaged with many members posting photos on social media. It was wonderful to see our community come together during lockdown.

I would like to recognise Shaun Desmond, leader of SUHC's junior section. Shaun has decided to step down from the role of section President after having taken it on in 2018. Shaun's efforts were always directed towards not only improving SUHC today but ensuring the club made investments towards its long-term sustainability and success. I have always been grateful for Shaun's leadership and support. Thank you, Shaun.

I would also like to thank all members and friends for their considerable support of the club as it faced a challenging financial position following the cancelling of the 2020 Winter Competition. I was overwhelmed by the level of generosity and support as many members refused a refund of their fees, made a financial donation or participated in the SUHC Iso Fun Run 2020. Every contribution helped, thank you.

A special thank you to our club and major sponsors: McKenzie's and Buxton Real Estate in Brighton. We are ever grateful for your significant financial contribution and continued support of SUHC. Their support was unwavering in 2020 and it is a privilege to have their commitment.

Finally, I would like to thank Kingston City Council and the State Government for the new lighting at Kingston Heath Reserve. The new lights are LED and will provide lighting levels in excess of 500 LUX. This will greatly improve safety for all members training or playing at night and will allow the club the ability to host mid-week Premier League matches during the winter competition. Official hand over of the new lights is imminent.



**Southern United Hockey Club Inc**  
Men, Women, Masters and Junior Hockey

Finally, I hope 2021 brings many successes on and off the field for SUHC. In recent months we have seen the return to hockey be met with great enthusiasm. The club has seen players return to the sport in encouraging numbers and recruitment efforts of the junior section has led to a great level of participation at this year's Hookin2 Hockey program. The atmosphere at Farm Road is returning.

**Caitlin Campbell**  
**President**  
**Southern United Hockey Club**