



This year, our 125th anniversary year, was meant to be overflowing with celebration. Most of what we planned for in the year, we couldn't do. But one great thing that was planned and achieved was this book!! So, thank you Marea for helping us salvage something memorable that fittingly celebrates our important anniversary.

There have been three prior books published on significant anniversaries in the 125-year history of our Club.

The first one published in 1945 (after 50 years), covered the period from 1895 to 1945 was called "CTC Jubilee Peace". It was a 44-page book, interesting in many respects, but overall an uninspiring little number.

The second one covered the period from 1895 to 1971 (75 years) and titled "City Tattersalls Club 75 years, A History". This was 58 pages.

The third covered the period from 1895 to 1995 (100 years) and called "A century of achievement". This was 74 pages but given the significant 100-year milestone, arguably it was a bit 'light on' to do justice to the subject.

This book, "On a Winner", the fourth in the series, is a much more ambitious piece than its predecessors with 311 pages and the result of enormous research and effort by its author, Marea Donnelly.

Whilst it is a much more substantial publication it is still in the same tradition as earlier ones. That tradition was well expressed in the introduction to the very first book. It reads "in unfolding the story, it is intended to clothe the starkness of historical fact with a mantle of anecdote, in the hope of capturing something of the spirit of the Club and the times through which has passed."

Marea has done an excellent job collecting the facts and capturing something of the spirit of the Club.

The spirit of our Club defies definition, but it is felt by members. It includes an appreciation of the rich and chequered history, the multiplicity of characters in the membership (famous and infamous; past and present), its strong place in Sydney's sporting, social and business life; its sense of inclusiveness and good fellowship; living up to its motto, "The place where friends meet".

I see the story of our Club as a not unlike the story of Sydney itself – getting off to what was something of an illegitimate start; having to fight hard for its very survival in a hostile setting; getting to its feet through wit, boldness and courage; becoming strong to the surprise of those who gave it no chance; and now preeminent but without losing the inclusiveness, acceptance and tolerance that comes from doing it the "hard way". Like Sydney, our past

must be acknowledged and respected and the future is looked to with optimism and aspiration.

One problem for Marea was knowing where and how to stop this book. It started out as a proposed 200-250 pages, publication but has ended up with 311 pages and there is a promise of a sequel to capture our Club's development journey over the next 4-5 years.

Another problem Marea experienced was that often after she extracted a juicy bit of scandal from a Member, she'd receive a phone call the next day from that Member retracting what was said and insisting she not publish it. Apparently, it can make you very uneasy at night if you dump a bucket on colourful facing personalities, even if they have been dead for 20 plus years.

Marea and I had a slight divergence of views over the name of the book. Marea's first title was "Staying The Course", which I didn't prefer because I didn't think it captured the Club's huge plans for change and the progress made in that regard over the last five years. So, I humbly suggested an alternate name, "Onward and Upward". Marea thought that my suggestion didn't reflect the history which is a large part of the book and wasn't "racey" enough. So, Marea hit upon "On a Winner". We were both happy with that and we're still talking to one another.

I commend the publication to you. It is a valuable addition to the literature of not just the history of our Club, but also of our City and indeed, our nation.