



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Covid has certainly rained on our Club's anniversary parade. We had such grand plans for this year!!!

But in the words of the poet Robert Burns – “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, leaving naught but grief and pain in place of promised joy”.

Our big anniversary week in September saw our Club in full lockdown and branded the “epicentre of the CBD cluster”. Most of our other planned events throughout the year were either cancelled or substantially diminished.

But despite the disappointments, we have managed to salvage some celebration in the year:

- We had a wonderful race day!
- We have had our 125th Anniversary book published (and to be launched in 2 days)
- And we've got tonight!

So, tonight is super special, and I hope a wonderful time is had by all.

Any business that lasts 125 years is extraordinary. There are few in Australia that can make that boast and fewer still that can make it, having survived in the competitive hot house that is our city's CBD.

Even more extraordinary is that for the whole of that 125 years, our Club has been right here in the same little part of Pitt St, between the Hilton Hotel and Market St.

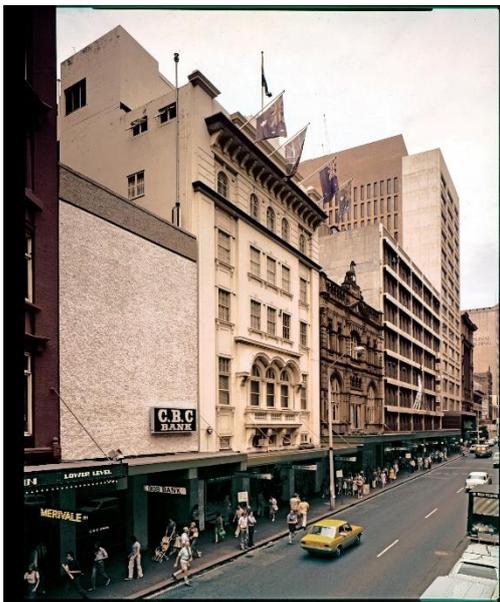


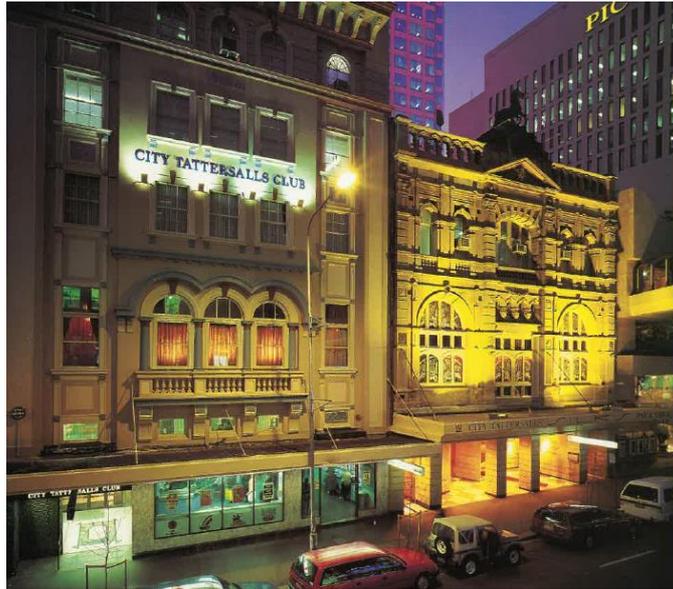


Throughout most of the 1800's (even before our Club was born) this little stretch of Pitt St was called "the horsey part of Pitt St". That was because most of the businesses in the area were associated in one way or another with horses. There were coach builders, horse bazaars, a Cobb and Co depot, saddleries, black-smiths, stables and of cause, horse racing Clubs. Back then, City Tattersalls was not the only one. There were about six horse racing Clubs crammed into Pitt St but ours is the only one that's still here!!

This "horsiness" of the area was commented upon by Henry Lawson in the early- mid 20th century, after motor vehicles had largely superseded horses and horse drawn vehicles. In referring to our Club's little part of Pitt St, he wrote:

"Where the ghostly hooves once clattered and where every phase of horse activity busied itself with the affairs of Sydney, a rampant horse still challenges from the skyline, to remind of the significant past and to announce its continuation into the future".





The rampant horse referred to was none other than the huge sandstone horse that used to surmount the top of our Club's beautiful building at 202-204 Pitt Street. Most here will remember it!!

A huge equine figure carved in the 1890's from a single block of stone and weighing over 2 ton.

But it's no longer there. In 2007, one big stone leg of the horse fell off, crashing down onto the metal awning below, no doubt scaring the tripe out pedestrians passing beneath. Mercifully, no one was injured, but the Sydney City Council took the view that if it was a leg today, it could be a head or a tail tomorrow and ordered the stone steed down.

The horse's removal from its Pitt St pedestal brought the area to a standstill for a day as cranes, trucks and workmen struggled with that extraordinary, equine endeavour.



Our lame and damaged horse was then put into storage where it remained self-isolating for decades. Out of sight and out of mind.

But then as our anniversary approached, two things happened that brought our horse back into the frame.

Firstly, a little over a year ago, Tattersalls Club cheekily asked whether they might take the horse off our hands. It was their horse from 1890 to about 1927, but it has been City Tatts' horse since 1975 and it is also and part of a City Tatts building, so we politely but firmly said "no".

Secondly, about 12 months ago, when the Council gave stage 1 development consent, a condition of the consent required that the horse be returned to its spot at the top of 202-204 Pitt St. So, after requiring us to take it down for reasons that seemed sound enough at the time, the Council's present position is that the horse be returned.

Of course, if the horse was to be restored to the top of 202-204 Pitt St, it could no longer be said "to challenge from the skyline", given that it will now be dwarfed by looming skyscrapers including (in a few years) the new tower over our Club. For it to challenge from the skyline again, our horse would have to sprout wings. And of course, that image leads us to our 125th anniversary logo.



The logo took our heroic horse figure that has always been a part of this Pitt St precinct and a part of this Club, transforming it into Pegasus a winged steed in full flight, representing the enormous and exciting change that is coming as the development of our airspace goes into full swing and the aspiration that our Club be restored to its place as the top Club in Sydney, so symbolically, our horse can again challenge from the top reminding of our significant past and announcing of our Club's continuation into the future.

I tell that story of the horse because it links our past with our future, and on this anniversary occasion it is appropriate that we make that link?

Our Club, because of its long and rich history, is full of fascinating stories (many of which are captured in the anniversary publication, I love the press release for the book that starts "In this book, more than a century of secrets and scandals surrounding one of Sydney's oldest Clubs are set to come to light"). Our Club has a plethora of it stories. It owns beautiful heritage building, located in the heart of Sydney. But as rich as its history is, as beautiful as its buildings are and as prime as its location is, none of these are its best asset.

Its best asset is and has always been its members.

Unlike many Clubs that are crippled by fear of change, disunity and complacency, CTC members are and have been characterised by boldness, spunk, adaptability, and substantial unity in decision making.

From the beginning, in 1895 when its first members voted to form a new Club in direct competition to the then strong, established Club and then located right next door, it sent the early message that this Club and its members were bold and active.

It was shown again in the 1960's, when members voted in favour of women having full voting rights, the first exclusive men's Club in Sydney to do so.

Again, in the 1990's, when members voted to purchase the Merivale Building, and also in 2013 when they voted overwhelming to pursue the airspace development. And as recently as this year, you voted in favour of an amalgamation and wide-ranging rule changes to prepare the Club for its development journey.

So, there is no lack of courage, adaptability, involvement and commitment in our membership.

So it is Members (past and present) that we applaud and celebrate on this our 125th anniversary because it is you who are responsible for our Club's longevity, its excellent standing and reputation and (god willing in this covid world) its brilliant future.



I ask you to charge your glasses and be upstanding as we drink a toast to our Club on its 125th anniversary and to our members past and present!!

To City Tatts and to Members

So, tonight is about you members.

All members are special. But there are a number of extra special ones who, in this anniversary year, the Board has seen fit to recognise in a special way.

The Board has already rewarded with life memberships this year.

Roy Ringrose who turned 100 years old (and has been a member since 1981)

Angela Belle McSweeny for her wonderful support of the club in her role as a director of the ATC (Angela is a third generation Club member and a member since 1985).

The Board announces tonight the following Members who have been approved for life membership in this anniversary year for their wonderful and conspicuous contributions to our Club.

- **Tony Mulvey (Unable to attend)**
- **Diane Anscombe**

For their services to the Harriers Running Club

- **Matt Kayrooz**
- **George Kostas**

For their services to the gymnasium

- **Shand Swadling**

For his services to the gym and for his general promotion of good fellowship in the Club.

- **Stephen Mathews**

For his services to the Cheetahs Swimming Club

- **Mark Cooper**

For his loyalty and dedication as an employee for nearly 40 years (18 years as CFO and 1 year as CEO) and now as a member.

Congratulations to you all very well deserved.