Secretaries report

This has been the year that has most challenged us all with the covid lockdown starting in March it threw all our plans into chaos courses stopped and alternate solutions worked out with the state and federal bodies either deferring students or doing what could be done online.

It did slow down our sale and purchase for a new home for NSW division, but we were able to finalise the sale of Wentworth Avenue and delayed settlement for 5 months whilst we searched for new premises. Michelle Clark and I worked through this period to find a new facility but were challenged by the lack of stock on the market or suitable facilities that we could convert to our needs. We found one facility at Ashfield and one in Rozelle that we were able to put in potential bids on. The Ashfield property ended up with a bidding challenge as someone else wanted the property and the price reached a level we could not afford. Rozelle was finally secured for a suitable price and we arranged for the purchaser of Wentworth Avenue to free up the deposit they had paid which was being held by the real estate agent so we could purchase Rozelle and begin redesign of the facility and contractor selection to modify the building to meet our needs.

My thanks to Michelle and the committee for there support and time in finding properties that we could potentially purchase and especially Michelle for the time in finding and vetting properties during the covid lockdowns as we searched from north to south and east to west.

The plans to get more short courses started and members nights were also curtailed but working with Federal a small group of 3 of us were able to get some members nights for all of the GAA organised via online lectures on many diverse topics on a monthly basis that were initially based on the talks we had planned for NSW and had speakers organised with subsequent speakers organised by this group.

When we start up members nights in person in NSW hopefully later this year, we plan to stream those online as well so all members can participate Australia wide.

Short courses will hopefully start in mid-2021 and GEM 1 will continue to run online with the support of the Victorian Division.

Once again my thanks to all the committee in NSW for their support and also Amy and our ESO for there help and support.