Gold Coast Pickleball Association Inc. ABN 23 315 313 698

2026 Presidents Report | Ryan Chilton

Sunday 8 November 2026 | 11:00 am | Currumbin RSL

Dear members,

Good morning, and thank you for being here today.

When I took on the role of President at last year's AGM, I knew the club was growing quickly. What I didn't fully realise was how quickly, or how much of the work behind the scenes would need rebuilding to keep up.

Twelve months on, we've grown from 895 financial members to 1,022, an increase of almost 15% and well past the 1,000 mark. We play across Currumbin, Runaway Bay, Tallebudgera and Pizzey Park, and we're one of the biggest pickleball communities in Australia. Every one of you helped build that.

At Currumbin, the roof works that began in August are now almost complete, giving us eight covered courts and year-round play, rain or shine. Thank you for your patience through the delays and closures. It will be worth it.

At Runaway Bay, I'm thrilled to say we've secured the lease of the whole facility from Gold Coast City Council which is currently being reviewed for signing. Runaway Bay will become GCPA's newest permanent venue, alongside tennis. For members, that means more court times and more pickleball. For the club, it opens the door to court hire, tournaments and new income we can put straight back into the game.

The part of this year I'm proudest of is one most of you will never see. I secured GCPA's approval for Google Workspace for Nonprofits at no cost to the club, and set us up with a proper club email system, a shared Google Drive and secure cloud storage. For the first time, our records live in one place that belongs to the club, not in inboxes, one laptop or paper.

On top of that, the committee and I have worked to put proper governance foundations in place: new templates for agendas, minutes and record keeping, a conflict of interest register, written agreements for paid roles, police checks where needed and stronger financial controls. It isn't glamorous, but it brings GCPA into a new era. It means the next committee inherits a club that's more organised, transparent and built to last.

It hasn't all been easy, and I want to speak plainly about one part of this year. We dealt with a serious governance matter involving a former committee member. I know some of you felt you weren't told enough, and I understand that frustration. Because it was a sensitive legal matter, we had to follow legal advice on what we could share and when, and that limited the detail we could give you. It was never about keeping members in the dark.

We shared what we could with members through a formal legal letter. The matter has been resolved, and we've strengthened our financial controls so the club is better protected from here on. If you have questions, please raise them with the secretary, and we'll answer as fully as we're able. I'm grateful to my fellow committee members for the care they showed through a very difficult time.

Our other big challenge is growth itself. We're a large club still run entirely by mostly volunteers, and easing that load will be one of the most important jobs ahead. Our Treasurer will take you through our financial position in the Treasurer's report.

Looking ahead, the priorities I'd pass on to the next committee are making Runaway Bay a great permanent home with a strong local ownership, investing back into our courts and programs, including resurfacing at Currumbin, and making life easier for our volunteers and committee.

Thank you to my fellow committee members for the evenings, weekends and lost sleep. To our conveners and volunteers: you are what makes this club. And to every member who turned up, played fair and welcomed someone new: that's what makes GCPA special.

This will be my last report as your President. I won't be standing again this year, and I want to be open with you about why.

I've recently stepped into a new role at my work that asks a lot more of my time and headspace. I've also moved house to Upper Coomera, with renovations that are just starting. At the same time, taking on Runaway Bay is the biggest step this club has taken since Currumbin opened. It deserves a President who can give it real, dedicated time and focus, and in the next 12 months I can't give it the attention it needs.

Leading GCPA has been a genuine privilege. I'm proud of the progress we've made even with a number of challenges to overcome. I will however, stay on as a proud member and do whatever I can to make the handover a smooth one.

Thank you, and I'll see you all on court soon.

Ryan Chilton

2025/26 President, Gold Coast Pickleball Association Inc.