

## **‘Focus on protecting member’ interests and achieving financial sustainability’**

Hastings Co-op introduced two new Directors and applauded the dedication of “our resilient, hard-working” staff at today’s Annual General Meeting.

Highlights of the 2022/23 financial year included: welcoming new Chief Executive Officer Nick de Groot; a 15% increase in Co-op 100 members; returning \$385,395 in rewards vouchers to Shareholders and Co-op 100 members; donating \$12,000 in Community Chest grants and; winning nine major business awards at local, regional, state and national levels.

The community owned co-operative, which employs more than 300 locals, also sponsored 63 community groups, gained safety certification ISO 45001:2018 and continued to reduce their environmental footprint through solar panels, reduced plastic packaging, increased recycling, offering battery recycling units to customers, partnering with OzHarvest and Billabong Zoo and researching new ways to care for the environment.

CEO Nick de Groot recognised that “there had been major challenges and difficult decisions” in 2022/23, but said he was “buoyed by the incredible team that I work with”.

“We will continue to focus on protecting our members’ interests and achieving financial sustainability so we can give back to the community,” he said.

“More difficult decisions will almost certainly need to be made, but we are committed to acting in the best interests of members, customers and staff.”

Chair Gary Humphreys said increasing competition, limited cashflow and significant capital investment requirements posed challenges, but was confident in Hastings Co-op’s strengths.

“Our community focus, strong brand, excellent employees and loyal customer base are the foundation for reforming our business and setting it up for future success,” he said.

Mr Humphreys thanked departing Directors Jane Evans and Lisa Intemann for their “dedicated service and significant contribution to the local community” and welcomed new Directors Leesa Bauer and Louise Eyres (biographies over page).

To download the full 2022/23 Annual Report visit [www.hastingscoop.com.au](http://www.hastingscoop.com.au)

**Media contact -  
Executive Manager Marketing and Customer Experience, Nicole Cook  
Phone: 02 6588 8916, Mobile: 0498 111 353**

Email: [nicolec@hastingscoop.com.au](mailto:nicolec@hastingscoop.com.au)

**LEESA BAUER**

**Bachelor of Science, Diploma Education**  
**Masters in Business Information Technology**  
**Graduate member (GAICD)**

Leesa is the founder of a technology-driven business dedicated to assisting senior and special needs people in maintaining their independence within the comfort of their own homes.

Before embarking on this entrepreneurial path, Leesa accumulated over two decades of experience within the banking and finance sector. In her corporate career, she successfully delivered large-scale technology infrastructure projects and oversaw the business and operations management of complex enterprises. She currently fulfils roles as a non-executive director and secretary on various boards.

Leesa's academic background includes a Bachelor of Science and a Diploma of Education, with a Masters in Business Information Technology. Her expertise spans technology, cybersecurity, risk management, and digital marketing, all of which contribute to her vision of using innovative solutions to enhance the lives of those she serves.

**LOUISE EYRES**

**Bachelor of Business**  
**Grad. Dip International Trade**  
**Master of Business Administration**

Louise is a growth and transformation leader who is passionate about the intersection of customer, community and company.

Louise has held Chief Marketing Officer roles for Vanguard Australia, Australian Sports Commission and ANZ Banking Group Limited and commenced her career with BHP with more than a decade in sales, marketing and brand leadership roles.

As a qualified Company Director and Certified Chair, Louise brings to the Board experience in marketing and business strategy, brand development, digital practices and sustainability.

Louise holds a Bachelor of Business, a Graduate Diploma in International Trade and a Master of Business Administration. She is also a non-executive Director of VicSport, an Advisory Board member of Jane's Weather and previous directorships include Greater Bank and Plan International Australia.