



Title: Paul finds our HEART.

Category: Heart of the Community

Club Name: Club Taree

Entrant: Courtney Berry, Branding and Marketing Officer

1. **Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**
 - a. **The program/project/cause objectives**
 - b. **The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
 - c. **A timeline of activities/events**
 - d. **Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

Paul has been an employee of Club Taree for the last 10 years. He has a distinct commitment to our community which has been demonstrated time and time again with passionate vigour and true dedication. He wears his heart on his sleeve and has worked tirelessly to instil a sense of community into everyone at Club Taree.

Paul is not one to take the praise and is the definition of humble. He will always highlight the success of the Team, he will always celebrate their achievements and showcase the combined efforts of the collective. The reality is that without Paul there wouldn't be a Team, and as a result there would be less humanity in our Community.

Some 6 years ago Paul developed the Club Taree Community Team, an outlet for Club Taree Staff, Management and Directors to engage with our Community. Paul often notes that at its conception he never imagined the impact that the initiative would have on both our Team and the community.

As I write this nomination the Club Taree Community Team, under Paul's direction has raised \$468,143 and volunteered a total of 8213 hours for our community, an amazing feat at the hand of Paul's gentle influence.

Across his various roles here at Club Taree, most recently as CEO Paul has maintained a steady, structured focus on ensuring that our Team is aligned to our community. Paul is the brainchild, the instigator, encourager and the coordinator of our community programs, events fundraisers and engagement campaigns.



As the continuous Leader of the Club Taree Community Team Paul has cemented community as part of our Team culture, resulting in community being a mainstay of our Club Values, our conversations and importantly our staff recruitment process.

Paul is infectious and as a result our Team has a genuine want to support Paul.

Paul's focus has changed the way that our Club engages with our Members and our Community. Our Team and our Members are more aware of the shortfalls within our community, but more importantly how we can make a difference.

The essence of Paul's work is Team. It is never about him, or what he can achieve. It has always been about us, and what we can achieve together. He is first to congratulate, to recognise, or transfer ownership to individuals or groups within our Team, when in reality it's his dedication that has made everything we have achieved possible.

Paul negotiates financial support from the Club Taree Board of Directors where needed, as well as liaises with suppliers, Members and groups as part of our Team's fundraising efforts.

Paul has from day one ensured that our Community initiatives, fundraisers and events have a strong family focus which encourages the children of staff to be an integral part of our Team teaching instilling in them a sense of community from a historically early age. Paul has the ability to nurture this generation of young volunteers which we from the outside continue to admire.

Paul approaches each event with an incredible sense of commitment and purpose. He ensures that he and his Team do everything people to make as much positive impact as possible, he has a genuine want for success and

You know that at any time Paul addresses the Team, our Members of the Community or the media the essence of his message will always be Community. The message doesn't tire, as it is always relevant, and thanks to Paul's commitment has become a part of our every day.

Paul always also makes everyone understand why they are doing what they are doing and educates them on the impact of the outcomes which creates a sense of ownership over each and every initiative.

We know that Paul has gone on to inspire other Clubs to make a positive difference to their communities, and is consistently called on for advice or a friendly ear from not only Clubs but other local and regional community groups and organisations who aim to spark a little bit of Paul into their Teams and Communities.

Paul's gentle influence and kind heart have made our workplace, our town, and our community a better place to be.

One of the greatest examples is 2020, when the world was filled with uncertainty and insecurity Paul made the bold decision to continue with our annual le Tour de Taree fundraiser. Paul knew that our Team could rally to make a difference. He engaged everyone just as he had in previous years. Paul's approach was that any funds we could manage to raise during a pandemic would assist sick children and their families who needed to continue to use the facilities of Ronald McDonald house Charities Northern NSW. Paul had told the Team that it would be amazing to raise \$5000. Paul's determination, along with the support of our Team saw us raise over \$38,000.

Paul ensures that all volunteers are valued for their contributions.

Paul remains our number One volunteer having contributed 873 hours to our Team total.

2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.

In your answer, summarise:

- a. How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- b. Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

As mentioned the Club Taree Community Team was the brainchild of Paul, he tells the story that he saw a lack of opportunity for our Team to have a genuine impact on our community. Paul researched the concept, developed the community touchpoints of the initiative and then presented the concept to firstly the CEO at the time and then subsequently the Board.

From day one Paul set about engaging the Team, and instilled a want to help. The first initiative was a simple community BBQ which saw 13 Team members commit. The second initiative drew the support of 37 Team Members, more than half our total Team. On many initiatives, such as the Club Taree Community Teams signature event, le Tour de Taree, Paul rallies the entire Team, their families, our Members and the wider community to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern NSW. This initiative alone has raised over \$180,000. None of which would have come to fruition without the guidance of Paul.



Paul's commitment to the making a positive difference and his commitment to encouraging others to make a positive difference has not waived since the inception of the Club Taree Community Team.

Of the countless events the Club Taree Community Team has attended, assisted at or held Paul has in the last 6.5 years only missed one due to a family commitment.

Beyond the \$468,143 raised and the 8213 hours volunteered the long term impact of Paul's influence may be immeasurable, whether it be his gentle influence, his listening ear, purposeful advice, or inspiring commitment Paul has engaged our Team, our Members and our Community in a way which will provide ongoing benefit.

Many of our Team now focus on personal challenges, fundraisers and initiatives to help charities, organisations and groups that align with them. With this Paul is ever supporting, encouraging and full of ideas on how they can improve their commitment.

Many of our Members have noted that they have chosen to be a Member due to the community focus of our organisation and the hard work and dedication of the Club Taree Community Team.

3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.

It is now hard to imagine our Club without Paul's commitment to our Community. Over the last six and a half years his commitment has been a mainstay of everything that we do.

Paul's unique ability to engage our Team to work for a common purpose has offered immeasurable benefits to our community. Without Paul's initial implementation of the Club Taree Community Team our Community would have missed out on not only the funds raised, the hours volunteered but also the tremendous source of inspiration that Paul and his dedication to making a positive difference has made.

People from throughout our community, our region and across the state have called on Paul as a mentor, and for advice. He has been able to assist and inspire countless programs and initiatives

Whether it be at a community BBQ, helping a local sporting team, taking part in a community project, engaging others in the process, mentoring community groups Paul is at the forefront of making a difference.



Paul has committed himself and our Team to over 100 different local and regional organisations, groups, projects and initiatives including, Ronald McDonald House Charities Northern NSW, Ronald McDonald Family Retreat Forster, Cancer Council, Paint the Town Read, Taree Historical Society, Rural Aid, Manning Valley Relay for Life, Taree Catholic Care, Taree Community Kitchen, Taree Women's Refuge, Taree Panthers Junior Rugby League Club Can Assist Manning Valley and Taree Parkrun.

Paul has extended his commitment to community over and above the Club Taree Community Team by volunteering on numerous Boards and Committees for local charities and community events. He is a much sought after community mentor.

We are incredibly proud to witness Paul's focus and dedication first hand on a daily basis.

Under Paul's guidance our Team has been recognised locally, regionally and throughout the state with accolades and achievements. Paul has always been first to dedicate these achievements to the Team as a whole. These include 2017 Myall Lakes Community Group of the Year, 2018 NSW Corporate Volunteer Team of the Year, 2019 Mid North Coast Volunteer Team of the Year, 2020 Mid North Coast Volunteer Team of the Year, 2019 Manning Valley Relay for Life Fundraiser of the Year, 2019 Manning Valley Relay for Life Team of the Year, 2019 Mid Coast Club Blood Donor Group of the Year and the 2020 Mid Coast Club Blood Challenge Group of the Year.

Without Paul our community most likely would have been \$468,143 less better off in donations and would have received 8213 less volunteer hours.

Paul is the Heart of our Community.

4. Add any credits here (optional).

5. Supporting material:

- *To request copies of the supporting documents, please email events@clubsnsw.com.au*