

**MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

ABN 81 000 164 947

*The Club on the Move*

***54<sup>th</sup>***  
***Annual Report***  
***and***  
***Balance Sheet***

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008  
TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TO BE HELD IN THE CLUB HOUSE,  
ON SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2008 AT 9.00AM

# **MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

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## **EXECUTIVE**

G SOLLY  
K AUSTIN  
L CLARK  
L HEKE  
I LOVELL

PRESIDENT  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
TREASURER  
CAPTAIN

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

J BEATTY  
T ETHERIDGE  
S DAVISON

J BARNDEN  
P PIRINI  
A SALISBURY

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

RICHARD J JONES

## **PATRONS**

L.W. CLARK

J. B. WAANDERS

## **AUDITORS**

PEARSON & SMART

# MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of MUREE –  
**1<sup>th</sup> November , 2008 at 9.00am**

The Order of Business at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING shall be:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and of any General Meetings held during the year.
2. To receive and consider the Annual Report, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report.
3. To declare the results of the Election of the Board of Directors for the ensuing year.
4. To appoint an Auditor or Auditors, Patron or Patrons.
5. Notice of Ordinary Resolutions:  
That pursuant to the Registered Clubs Act:
  1. The members hereby approve and agree to the reasonable expenditure by the Club until the next Annual General Meeting of the Club for the following activities of Directors:
    - a. The reasonable cost of meal and beverage for each Director immediately after a Board or Committee meeting on the day of that meeting, when the meeting corresponds with a normal mealtime;
    - b. Reasonable expenses incurred by Directors in travelling to constituted committee meetings as approved by the Board from time to time on production of invoices, receipts or other proper documentary evidence of such expenditure;

- c. Reasonable expenses incurred by Directors in relation to such other duties including entertainment of special guests to the Club and other promotional activities performed by Directors which activities and the expenses there from are approved by the Board before payment is made on production of invoices, receipts or other proper documentary evidence of such expenditure;
  - d. The provision of marked car-parking spaces for the use of the President and Directors;
  - e. The reasonable cost of Directors and Management Employees attending meetings, conferences, seminars, lectures, trade displays, organized study tours, fact finding tours and other similar events as may be determined by the Board from time to time;
  - f. The provision for directors to have the first opportunity to select a time spot on the Saturday Golf Time Sheet;
2. The members acknowledge that the benefits in paragraph (a) above are not available to members generally but only for those who are Directors of the Club and those persons directly involved in the above activities.
6. To transact any other business that may be dealt with in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company.

Dated 7th October, 2008  
By Direction of the Board  
**RICHARD JONES**  
General Manager

# **MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

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## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008***

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present the members with the Club's Annual Report for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

This year the Club has achieved a nett profit of \$73149.00. Although this is significantly down on last year's result we must be proud to achieve this given the extremely trying conditions we have faced over the past 12 months. The Smoking and Tax policies brought in by the N.S.W Government have not been designed to help clubs at all and smaller clubs like ours have been worst hit. Although our profit is smaller we have at least managed to increase our equity by over \$70,000. This can only be accomplished through the exceptional management of our General Manager Richard Jones and a dedicated Board of Directors.

Due to the current economic conditions worldwide we have elected to renovate the existing clubhouse this year and a visit to the Club will no doubt assure members of our ability to do this. Our plans for the land at the bottom of the course and the new clubhouse are still on the agenda but we have taken a "wait and see" attitude until the economy improves.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank Richard Jones for his dedication, loyalty and support over the past 12 months. Also his Department Supervisors Dee Mitchell, Julie Sullivan and Julie Flanagan along with all their staff.

To Shane Cowper and his team from Resorts, I thank you for your efforts on the course this year. You have done a marvellous job with the inclement weather conditions, to maintain Muree to the standard our members expect.

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*PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007 – 2008 continued*

Thanks also to Terry Robinson and his team for your continued support in the Proshop.

To the Muree Vets and Ladies Committee, special thanks for your support throughout the year.

My fellow Board members who continue to put Muree's financial position and future ahead of anything else, a special thanks. Your unseen voluntary work is much appreciated. Special thanks to Ken Austin and Adam Salisbury for your efforts over the past 12 months. We will miss you at our board meetings.

To all Members who lost loved ones over the past twelve months, I express my condolences to you and your families.

Although our profits are down I feel we are about to enter a new and interesting time here with our renovations underway. This should help us to achieve our goals and keep Muree financially stable. Our members can be assured of my belief and passion that we will continue to move forward as I continue to serve as President of Muree Golf Club.

Gary SOLLY,  
PRESIDENT,  
M.G.C. LTD

# **MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

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## ***GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008***

Well what a year it began with the aftermath of June 07 floods and 100% internal smoking bans and nothing improved from that point.

Consumer spending diminished during the year as interests rates hit a 12 year high on top of skyrocketing fuel and food prices, the falling stock market and continual wet weather have reduced household disposable income. This has had a significant effect on the hospitality and club industries.

This years profit reflects the effect these events have had on the club industry, with over 85% of Clubs in NSW experiencing downturns in profits. Club closures and mergers have reached epidemic proportions as nearly one club a week closes or seeks a merger.

After several years of below average and sporadic rainfall, this year has compensated the course with several months of constant rain. While good for the golf course, it does have a downward effect on income.

There looks to be some challenging years ahead for the club industry. Steps have been taken to meet these challenges. Club alterations will be starting in the next financial year giving the club a major face-lift and improving customer facilities and services. This will go a long way towards meeting the demands of members and will put the club in a forward position to attract more customers as the club industry recovers.

The redevelopment project research continued this financial year. Studies of several significant developments were undertaken during the year with the main interest focussing on the development of Wollongong Golf Club. Unfortunately, nothing eventuated from this research.

Redevelopment plans have were put on hold as we assessed the fallout from the “sub prime” lending disaster in America.

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### *GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008 continued*

This proved prophetic, as the flow on from this has caused a worldwide economic slump. It is in the best interest of the Club not to be involved in a major redevelopment while the economic situation is so volatile.

The plan for the Club's redevelopment continues under the original guidelines of exercising due diligence and not setting a time frame for completion. The Club's goal is to achieve the best outcome, as this will be a one-time opportunity. Time is not the issue a successful result and the shoring up the Club's future is the main objective

A small vociferous minority of members would like to see more money spent (on the golf course) than the club makes. While this would be good for some short-term benefits, it would negate any long-term future of the Club.

Strong fiscal management has provided the Club with a strong base to head into the future. Maintaining sound financial guidelines will generate profits, which will provide the finances to continue to develop the Club and provide increased benefits for members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to President Gary Solly and his fellow board members for their continued support and tireless service to the club.

Congratulations to all the staff and contractors for their team work, enthusiasm and contributions to the success of the club during the past twelve months. Contractors headed by Shane Cowper (Course Maintenance), Terry Robinson (Pro Shop) and Steve Marsh (Cleaning) have been of great service to the Club during the year.

Particular mention has to be made to my senior supervisors Dee Mitchell, Julie Flanagan and Julie Sullivan for their loyalty, dedication and hard work in achieving our objectives.

Richard Jones  
Manager

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## ***TREASURER'S REPORT 2007–2008***

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to announce an operating profit of \$73,149 for the 2007 – 2008 financial year. While down on previous years this result is satisfactory in a year when a vast majority of clubs suffered serious downturns due to full indoor smoking bans and a general economic slump.

The result for the club and is a testament to the Board and managements determination to initiate policies that are beneficial to the club financially as well as satisfying members expectations.

Income in all trading areas is down on last year with the exception of the Course account.

Bar trading was down \$8,500 and profit was down \$13,660. Improvements in net profit were offset by increases in expenses.

Gaming Trading was the major area of decreased income with poker machine income down \$225,000. A reduction in gaming tax for clubs earning under \$1million dollars offset some of the reduced income.

Catering trading was once again a disappointing area with a \$17,500 drop in income and an 11% increase in wages due to increases in holiday and sick leave.

Course trading was up \$14,000 a good result considering all the wet weather. This was offset by increased expenditure on course maintenance and repair to the watering system.

Administration expense remained the same with savings on promotions counterbalanced by increases in insurance and repairs and maintenance.

The catering and course trading accounts continue to be a problem for the club.

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## *TREASURER'S REPORT 2007–2008 continued*

Upcoming renovations and changes to menus and trading hours will be part of a review to create profits in the Bistro. Contract caterers have been looked at but do not seem to be the alternative at present to providing a facility that is vital to the club's future.

Improving course condition and pathways coupled with some sunshine should see an increase in course use providing profits in this area.

While the overall results are below previous years constant reviews of operations and KPIs by the Board and Management will continue. Planned renovations should see an increase in income and put the club in a healthy position to go forward.

The Club has continued to support the local community with cash donations and in kind support to local sports team and non-profit organisations amounting to over \$15,000.

I would like to thank the Veterans and Ladies golfers and the Fishing Club for their support over the past year.

I would like to congratulate Richard Jones the General Manager and his staff for their enthusiasm and hard work over the year, which has enabled the club to remain viable.

The club would not be a success without the support and patronage of our members. Together we should be proud of the club's progress.

Len Heke  
Treasurer

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## *CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2008*

With a steadily increasing playing membership, our club has managed to avoid some of the worrying trends experienced by the golfing industry in recent times. Your Board has seen fit to encourage participation in golf at Muree through a range of strategies, from encouragement of young players, through to financial concessions not embraced by clubs generally, to the most important of factors; the presentation of the playing surfaces on the course itself. An excellent liaison has developed between the Course Superintendent, Shane Cowper, and management, through fortnightly reviews of course conditions and his company's contractual obligations to us. Day-to-day micromanagement of many issues has assisted in ensuring that we enjoy conditions of play which are much better than on most of our competing courses. Muree Golf Club has been selected as the venue for numerous District and some State events as a direct result of this emphasis and it's outcomes.

Congratulations to all our Pennant teams, who acquitted themselves very well. We came with one round of being promoted to Division 1 of the NDGA Senior Pennant.

We can all be pleased to note that Frank Musgrave continues to cut a swathe through the events he contests, and be astonished at the consistent high quality play produced by our Champion, 'young' John Sullivan, who represents the Club very robustly. I must also mention Julie Swanson's brilliant form earlier this year and congratulate her on winning, inter alia, the Australian Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. This capped off one of her best years competing against the top women golfers in the country.

Terry Robinson has played a significant part in encouraging social play, and in particular regular visits by social clubs, which provide a significant quota of our income. There are many forward bookings even at this stage for next year, and this is another clear indicator that the course is indeed attractive, and in good playing condition.

The wet weather experienced earlier this year was a negative factor for us in every respect. It had an effect on participation, but I am pleased

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## CAPTAIN'S REPORT continued

to say that we continued to use the course on all but one day, when even one person was sighted 'out there'.

Conditions were such that in late April we were forced to postpone the Muree Cup, a State Vardon event, to a date in October, when the course will be in championship condition.

Thank you to all who respected the onerous conditions placed on cart use over the wet period. Water tables have risen in several areas and still cause ongoing problems. Work on pathways and wet areas subsequently requiring extensive drainage works is ongoing and very expensive. As you can understand, most of this work is not mandatory work for the contractors, and much is undertaken by our volunteer work force. Thanks is given to the following people, who have undertaken some heavy physical work on the course in their personal time: Verne Allen, Len Heke, Ken Austin, Lee Clark, Richard Jones and Kevin Klingberg. Without the freely given effort on the part of these men, the regular complainers would have a field day. Maybe there are others (several have made the offer recently) who might have a couple of hours available every now and then to help out.

Many thanks to those on the scorers' roster. There is some stress and concentrated effort involved in collating and then disseminating the competition results. Stretch and Charger are always busy with the management of handicaps and ongoing competitions, in addition to their normal Match Committee duties. John Beatty is always there to fill in the gaps while the rest of us are off drinking.

The General Manager, Richard Jones has played an important role through all of this. His 'hands-on' management style, willingness to assist in any way, and instant evaluation of ideas (both good and poor quality) has proven to be very valuable in getting on with what I have to do. Thank you Richard.

It's been a great combined effort in 2007/8, and I look forward to continuing to coordinate the effort in the future.

Ian Lovell  
CAPTAIN

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## ***ASSOCIATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

It is with great pleasure I submit my report for 2007/2008. Once again I have been blessed with such a hardworking committee that makes my job as President enjoying and very fulfilling.

On behalf of our Lady Members I would like to thank Richard Jones, Men's Committee, The Board of Directors, Terry & Jenny Robinson, Shane Cowper & his Greens staff, Julie (Office), Julie (Catering), Steve (Cleaner) and of course Dee and the Bar Staff for all their help this year in all their areas of expertise.

Many thanks to the Board of Directors / Men's Committee for their continued support of our Pennant and Interclub Teams by supplying our Golf Shirts and Golf Balls. The Pennant Team again played strong teams and were rewarded with some excellent results which will keep us entrenched in 2<sup>nd</sup> division for 2009.

Once again our Interclub Team proved a force to be reckoned with by being runner-up in their pool for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Surely their time will maybe eventuate next year.

The Ladies Committee on behalf of the Associates purchased Tee Markers this year and many many thanks go to Greg Gannon and Ken Austin for cementing these blocks into place. They certainly stand out and hopefully are vandal proof.

The Committee also purchased a bar fridge, microwave and sandwich toaster for our Associates room and these are all being put to very good use every Tuesday. A thank you Sausage Sizzle was also provided for our ladies which was enjoyed by all.

Our Open Day in July was once again a huge success and attracted over eighty ladies with \$400 being raised by way of a gold coin donation and matched dollar for dollar with proceeds being gratefully received by the Tomaree Breast Cancer Support Group.

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## *ASSOCIATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued*

As usual our Melbourne Cup Day proved a winner and we received many responses of "We'll be back next year".

Days like these would not be the success they are without the full support of our lady members who excel in the sponsorship, the mouth watering morning teas, raffles, table duties, etc., and as I said in my last report even though our numbers are small our hearts are large.

We have had a few ups and downs in health of some of our members and husbands/partners this year so to all of you go our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Our thoughts also go to members who have lost a loved one this year.

I would like to congratulate two of our Associates, Betty Ratley who received Life Membership and also to Patsy Fincher who was made an Honorary Member. A big thank you to these ladies for all their hard work, dedication and sacrifices in all the varied positions they have held on our Committee for so many years.

Quite a few of our ladies had zero birthdays this year so many yummy sponge cakes were brought to the table and enjoyed by us all. Hopefully there will be a few more next year.

Once again a huge thank you to all of our Associates for your generous support. This continued effort makes Muree such a user/friendly golf club and a pleasure to be part of what we think an extended family.

Lastly a club will not survive without the full support of its members and a dedicated committee who give their time so freely. Muree Associates possess this commitment, so the future success of the club is ensured.

Yours in Golf

Carol Brown, President  
(On behalf of the Muree Associates Committee).