

# **MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

ABN 81 000 164 947

## **EXECUTIVE**

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| G SOLLY     | PRESIDENT      |
| J W BARNDEN | VICE-PRESIDENT |
| T ETHERIDGE | VICE-PRESIDENT |
| L HEKE      | TREASURER      |
| I LOVELL    | CAPTAIN        |

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| J BEATTY  | L CLARK    |
| S DAVISON | P PIRINI   |
| D LOVELL  | D MAYBERRY |

## **GENERAL MANAGER**

RICHARD J JONES

## **PATRONS**

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| L.W. CLARK | J. B. WAANDERS |
|------------|----------------|

## **AUDITORS**

PEARSON SMART AUDITORS

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## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of MUREE –  
WILL BE HELD ON

**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 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 therefrom 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 28th October, 2009  
By Direction of the Board  
**RICHARD JONES**  
**General Manager**

## MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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### *PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008 - 2009*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I present the members with the Club's annual report for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

This year we achieved a profit of \$178,944.00 which is quite a remarkable feat when one considers the restrained financial position both here in Australia and around the world as a whole. The N.S.W Government bans were of no help as well. These results can only be achieved through diligent management by both the Board and our General Manager, Richard Jones. The Board and Richard are to be commended for their efforts through these difficult times.

During this time we elected to proceed with an internal renovation of the clubhouse, one which was at least 10 years overdue, and what a difference. I am sure that all members would have a great sense of pride to enter this clubhouse and feel the difference. We cannot and will not stop at this. Our Club must grow to survive and this means our clubhouse, which is the engine room, must be expanded to meet the growing demands to be put on it. But one step at a time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Jones for his continued dedication to Muree and the fantastic support he is to both myself and the Board. Special thanks to the Department Supervisors, Dee Mitchell, Kelly Engel, Julie Flanagan and Julie Sullivan and all their staff. Without great loyal staff we only have an empty shell.

Thanks as well to Terry Robinson and his crew in the Proshop for their continued support. Also, Shane Cowper and the team from Resorts for their fantastic efforts in maintaining the best little golf course in the Hunter. Great result guys.

To the Ladies Committee, Muree Vets and the Muree Fishing Club – special thanks for your continued support through the year.

To all members who lost loved ones throughout the year –my condolences to you and your families.

Well, we have had another successful year here at Muree and the future is looking brighter by the day, but we cannot rest on our laurels. We have to be diligent and focused on continuing to achieve our goals to ensure Muree's financial viability well into the future. Failure is not an option.

Thank you to all who have supported me through the last twelve months (including my wife Sue) and I look forward to serving as President of Muree Golf Club into the future.

Gary SOLLY,  
PRESIDENT,

## **MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

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### ***GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009***

A year of financial uncertainty proved to be one of the club's most challenging. Last years downward spiral continued for several months due to the lingering affects of total smoking bans and macro-economic factors such as interest rates, petrol prices and consumer confidence continuing to have a negative effect on discretionary spending. This was compounded by the global financial crisis which, while reducing pressure on interest rates and petrol prices, caused more consumer uncertainty as the Stock Market plunged and employment opportunities diminished.

During this time of economic uncertainty the Board and management took the measures to enhance the Club's future by undertaking a major renovation. A well overdue renovation that was vital to providing the catalyst for encouraging consumers to Muree when discretionary spending confidence rebounded.

The Club's future planning will now revolve around a positive approach to growth and profitable undertakings. The Club needs to lose our small club mentality and look to grow the present business and seek other income streams. It is important the Club does not make the mistakes of the past by heavily investing in one facility at the expense of the Club's overall profitability. Areas that provide the major revenues for the Club need to be developed initially so profits can then be allotted to other areas.

The future holds great promise for Muree Golf Club as the Hunter and particularly the Port Stephens and Maitland areas continue to grow. Several major developments are happening or being planned right on Muree's door step including; 1000 new jobs at the Tomago Industrial area, \$500 million on development of Williamtown Aerospace Park in the next 15 years, 4,000 new houses at Kings Hill, 3,000 new houses in Medowie and 1,000 new home at Thornton.

The club needs to be in a position to capitalise on these new markets. The club can no longer sit here and watch the world go past. In the past 10 years over 200 clubs have been wound up. This number will increase in the next few years as small and medium sized clubs that have not looked to the future lose their customer base and in turn meet their demise.

So looking forward the Club will continue to investigate the possibility of a housing development and resort style accommodation on site. Expanding the Club premises is also high on the agenda as more room is required to meet increasing membership demands. Increasing profits will also provide funds to help develop and improve the golf course.

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, Kelly Engel and Julie Sullivan for their loyalty, dedication and hard work in achieving our objectives.

Richard Jones  
Manager

## MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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### *TREASURER'S REPORT 2008-2009*

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to announce an operating profit of \$178,944 for the 2008 – 2009 financial year. This has been boosted by an insurance payment of \$133,000 for damages relating to the 2007 June floods. This figure has been offset by repair work that has been carried out on the clubhouse and course since the floods.

Posting a profit for the year is a pleasing result considering the state of the economy and ongoing effects of total smoking bans.

Profits were made in the bar, gaming and course areas with a loss in catering.

The catering area has proved to be a particular problem. The present loss is a heavy burden for the club to carry. The Board has looked at alternatives to in-house operation but has not been able to find anything suitable. The Club needs to have a dining facility to attract customers and to comply with licensing conditions. The Board envisages the renovation, revamping of menus and trading times will provide a turn around in this area.

One very pleasing aspect of the reports was the small profit in course trading. This coupled with the improving condition of the course justifies the continuation of the external maintenance provider.

Expenditure was kept to a minimum with the main areas of increased expenditure being council rates which doubled, electricity and wages due to staff increases to provide better management of licensing compliance and OH&S.

Over the past 4 years the Club has spent nearly \$2million out of trading on providing balconies for the introduction of smoking bans, an external gaming area, increasing poker machine licenses, new poker machines, a new roof and renovating the Clubhouse. This has all been paid for out of trading at the same time as all obligations for payment on the \$1 million debt have been met.

This is proof that the Board and management's programs to run the Club as a profitable enterprise are the way to the future. All areas of operation will be continually scrutinised to achieve the best results. The club work to increase income and profits to create financial certainty for the future

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 for their donations and 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 prosper.

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

## MUREE GOLF CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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### *CAPTAIN'S REPORT*

Despite the community's serious economic concerns of recent times, our Club has continued to attract golfers in numbers which allow us to maintain and improve our course facilities. Last August we hosted an event which showed off the course in very good condition to officials from Golf NSW. As a result we have been given the opportunity to host the NSW Medal in January 2010. The highest level of Amateur golf has not often ventured outside the Group 1 courses in the Metropolitan area. This is an undeniable testament to the work our greens staff have done for us and the way work on the playing surfaces of the course is negotiated and planned with Resorts Newman. Acknowledgement of weekly volunteer work done by Ken Austin should also be made here.

A major disappointment has been the sharp decline in junior participation. Last year we had some promising young players being mentored by willing helpers, led by Wayne Barnden, Ken and Viv O'Keefe and others. Young people are just not becoming interested in golf, as is evidenced by the lack of high school sport numbers on the course in comparison with past years. It appears from our analysis that most prefer social golf to regimented competition. We will work on some strategies to make competitive golf more attractive for young local people, and to provide opportunities for them to compete and mix with accomplished players at weekends and in coaching environments.

The Muree Cup this year was held in atrocious weather conditions, and at the end of competition Greg Harding was tied with Greg McMillan from Waratah. A sudden death playoff gave the Cup to McMillan. Commiserations to Greg Harding on a narrow loss in this Vardon event, which attracted the District's best players. Congratulations to our 2008 Club Champions. John Sullivan has continued his dominance of recent years. Grades were won by Harry Musgrave, Brett Staham and Jay Griffis, and Senior Champion was Frank Musgrave, with Junior Champion Zac Bowen. We have had some suggestions regarding a change in the Championship dates, but currently the Match Committee is in favour of leaving the schedule as it stands for 2010. This will tie in with other District events, our maintenance contract arrangements, and the natural progression in the current calendar in terms of course condition and renovation timetables, Club and District Championships and Pennant selections.

Our scoring system, which also manages the Club's administration, has had some teething problems. The benefits we now see far outweigh the cumbersome and restrictive arrangements we formerly had. The usual thanks are due to current Board Members, all of whom assist to varying degrees with our scoring. Wayne Barnden deserves special mention for his perseverance with 'Slice' and his early morning preparations for all Club competitions. Others have given much of their personal time to assist with competitions and team administration. Without willing helpers, my job would not be easy. If you would like to receive current scoring and ongoing competition updates, as well as conditions of play and cart use, please supply an email address to the office. Some further emphasis will shortly be put on developing our website into an information source for Members and the public. I can envisage benefits we are as yet unable to fully realise, and which might help spread the word about our Club.

My thanks also go to the Ladies' Committee for assistance at various events during the year.

I congratulate our CEO, Richard Jones, on his achievements in expanding our business, which underpins our capacity to provide a very enjoyable golf course in these difficult times and into the future. Richard's careful attention to our maintenance contract adds further to the reasons we have been amongst the few highly successful and profitable local Clubs in recent years.

Ian LOVELL,  
CAPTAIN

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### *ASSOCIATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

It is with great pleasure I submit my report for 2008/2009.

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 green staff, Julie & Anne (office), Julie & staff (catering), Steve (cleaner), Dee & bar staff for all their support this year. Many thanks go to the Board of Directors/Men's Committee for their continued support of our Pennant & Interclub teams with supplying our golf shirts and golf balls.

The Pennant results were varied due to very strong competition but our ladies played exceptionally well to allow us to remain in 2<sup>nd</sup> Division for 2010. Interclub results were very close and once again went down to the last match with the ladies just missing out yet again. 2010 could be the year.

The Newcastle District Ladies Championships were held at Muree in June. The weather was atrocious but nevertheless approx. 15 ladies from our club played and were rewarded with some excellent results. Well done ladies.

Our Open Day in March was again a success with some 60 ladies playing. A gold coin donation was matched dollar for dollar and proceeds of \$140 forwarded to Tomaree Breast Cancer Support Group. Other donations through the year were made to:  
Bush Fire Appeal – Bush Fire Animal Appeal – Hunter Stroke & Disability.

Congratulations go to Patsy Fincher who received Life Membership. A fitting reward for all her work in so many positions on our Muree Committee over her lengthy playing career.

Our zero birthday cakes are proving very popular, so hopefully a few more of our ladies will be lining up next year to reveal their ages.

The health of some of our members, husbands/partners have been a worry, so to all of you our warmest wishes go out to you and hopefully 2010 will be a better year. Our thoughts also go out to members who have lost loved ones this year.

A very huge thank you goes out to all the wonderful Muree Ladies for all your support. Your trophies, raffles, table duties, etc, and of course your famolus morning teas which Master Chef would find hard to emulate. The continued success of this club is because of you all.

It has been 3 years since I was elected President and it's been an honour and a privilege to represent you, and a position I haven't taken lightly. It has afforded me the opportunity to work with such a hardworking and dedicated Committee that has made my job so enjoyable and very fulfilling. So to you ladies a heartfelt thank you.

To the incoming President and her Committee our club is in a very strong position and with the full support of our ladies, look forward to watching the continued growth of our sport and Muree Associates in 2010.

Yours in golf,

Carol BROWN,  
PRESIDENT  
(on behalf of the Muree Associates Committee)