



# Muree Golf Club Newsletter

## MUREE NEWS

### Your Committee and Management Team

I am pleased to advise that the Development Application (DA) for 62 units to be known as the Terrace Country Club was submitted to Port Stephens Council late November last year. It is too early to make a call on how long the approval process will take, but it should be relatively quicker than normal given that it will not require referral to NSW State Planning as we have already received their approval via the Site Suitability process undertaken earlier in the project. Council have asked however, for value certification by a quantity surveyor, something that was not mandatory with the DA submission process. I will keep you informed as feedback is provided by Council.

In May and again in September's (2017) Newsletters, members were notified that players that failed to complete the top right-hand corner of their scorecard, would not be considered for the novelty prizes of best front and back 9. Most players have complied with this very simple task and to date there have only been a couple of players that have missed an opportunity to win these prizes. However, there are still some players that regularly fail to complete this part of the card and consequently remove themselves from the novelty front and back 9 prizes. If you are unsure of the correct completion of the card, there is a notice above the terminal that you enter your scores into, outlining the requirements for each type of round.

Slow play has again plagued us with the number of written complaints increasing. The Board is increasingly concerned that this frustrating aspect of the game may turn players off from Muree. I ask that groups do their best to maintain the pace behind the group in front of them. The Match Committee will monitor this issue and if necessary, Marshalls may be used to remedy this annoying aspect of the game.

Last month the first of the quarterly draws was run with the club regulars winning the three prizes, it was encouraging to see a few golfers turn up to test their luck. The second of these draws is in the planning stage and more will be revealed once the details are sorted, but I understand that this one may include travel voucher/s. The Club's Super Draw for members now stands at \$17,000 but of course you must be in the Club at the time of the draw. The draw is Thursday evenings between 6:00 and 8:00 pm so don't miss out.

### COURSE NEWS

For those whose errant shots off the 6<sup>th</sup> tee towards the 6<sup>th</sup> dam, you may have noticed a thick covering of weed completely choking the surface of the dam. The weed was continually fouling the pump and attracting higher maintenance on the pump and irrigation system.





The Board approved funding to have the weed, fallen trees and other debris removed from the 6<sup>th</sup> dam. This work has now been completed and the dam is now free from these obstructions. This work was undertaken with funds from the Pro Pin comp that players enter each Saturday. Thank you to those that try their luck in this extra challenge, rest assured, the money is being wisely spent on the course.

Water security during the summer heat is one issue that has both the Course superintendent and the Board focusing its efforts. To date, our irrigation system has been holding on well, this is a credit to the course staff as they continue to repair the sprinklers and broken pipework when required. Of greater concern though, is the lack of rain the course has received since late spring. Our dams are reaching a point where we now only have sufficient water to maintain the greens, watering of all other areas will be resumed once we receive good rain. I will keep you advised on this issue.

The greens are holding up well in the heat due to some diligent work from the grounds staff. An unfortunate consequence of the heat and the watering regime is the couch and other grass infestations slowly emerging. The superintendent advises me that treatment of these infestations cannot occur until autumn, as the herbicide will affect the bent grass if applied in temperatures over 25 degrees Celsius.

Our volunteers have done some great work over the past months, Len Heke has been particularly busy over the past months establishing the new tee on the 1<sup>st</sup> and also landscaping the embankment adjacent to the 12<sup>th</sup> tee. Len has been assisted by work for the dole and community service recipients. It would appear that there's no slowing down Len who is well past retirement age. We must also thank Jack Rimmington who donated paver's to pave around the bench seat. The weed that has been removed from the 6<sup>th</sup> dam was transferred by volunteers using the course machinery. Many thanks to Vern Roberts, Ron Bunting, Al Bland and Robbie Funnell for this work.

Lastly, the Match Committee has received feedback from a number of members about pitch marks and divots on the course that have not been repaired. There is also an increase in the number of complaints about the condition of bunkers that members have left in a very poor state after playing their shots. In the interest of making the course more enjoyable for everyone, players are reminded to repair their divots and pitch marks as well as rake out bunkers properly.

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DATRYS TECHNOLOGIES