



Muree Golf Club Newsletter

MUREE NEWS

How quickly things change in our world. Two months ago we had no rain and bushfires surrounding towns, taking life and destroying livelihoods. Since then, the rain has come, but more importantly, our lives have been severely impacted by the COVID19 virus and the restrictions placed upon everyone. It is a very good time for reflection on how we must behave and adhere to the daily updates of “stay at home” and “do not hoard.” We all must do the right thing.

On the brighter side, and at the time of writing this newsletter, golf is still permitted to be played providing that the restrictions regarding social distancing and the Golf NSW rules the club have adopted to ensure the safety of players. The recommendations are that golf is played in groups of two or three, although groups of four are permitted. Social distancing is the key to golf being afforded the ability to continue. The restrictions are: one person per cart, unless you are a couple, keeping 1.5 metres between each other, no shaking hands and coughing and sneezing are done into a clean tissue or the crook of the elbow. In our Conditions of Play and advice, members have been provided with the constraints that Golf NSW have recommended the game be played under. These are to be strictly adhered to by members and social players. Social players are still welcome to play and are advised by the Pro Shop staff of the restrictions, however if the rules are not adhered to they will be asked to leave immediately. Staff will be sanitising carts and equipment after every use to ensure player safety.

As you are all aware, the Clubhouse is now closed and the social aspects of club life are on hold until those restrictions are lifted. The closure will impact on the ability of the club to finance the upkeep and maintenance of the club, but it will receive some assistance from the measures announced by the government a week or so ago. I will not go into these in any depth, but suffice to say, that Sally, our Licensee and acting Operations Manager is doing everything possible to ensure the club does close off or suspend payments where we are able and take advantage of these assistance packages. These assistance measures will not completely cover our costs, but if the nation adheres to the requirements of government, then the restrictions may be retired more quickly.

Recently the greens were cored and a very good roll up of volunteers made the task so much quicker and simpler. I thank the volunteers for their dedication to the Club, in particular, the regulars that assist every Tuesday with course maintenance and also some new faces, Bruce Somerville, Terry Henderson, Tim Messenger and Terry Noon. The course is looking much healthier after the long period we experienced without rain. The water level in our dams was at



the point where watering was limited to greens and tees and the fairways, or I should say, the closely mown portion of the general area, were looking very dry and a little sad before the rain.

Our new golf professional, Lee Akers, aka Leeroy, has made a complete and refreshing change in the pro shop. Every conceivable piece of equipment to assist your game is available now and if you can't find it, Lee will order it in and beat any price you might find in other retail venues. Unfortunately, golf lessons have been cancelled for the time being and this is due to the recommended restrictions placed on PGA members, this includes the junior clinic that Lee started only a week before the restrictions were imposed. They will recommence once things get back to normal.

Our bistro has suffered with the departure of the contracted caterer, and while we have attempted to fill the gap with club employed staff, we have not been able to sustain the same level of service. This is due to the contractor removing some of their equipment and the club being unable to replace it quickly. The club had been in negotiation with the contractor to purchase the equipment, however the contractor saw fit to remove it without notification. While he was entitled to do so, it left a gap in the ability of the bistro to deliver a better product.

After a very selective process, we now have a new caterer by the name of Mad Asia. They were at the Caledonian pub in Singleton and were looking for a venue closer to Newcastle. When normality finally arrives and we reopen the clubhouse, they will commence with a new menu (with the old favourites), that will be embraced by all. I think members will be pleasantly surprised, in both price and quality at what is offered by Mad Asia.

Lastly, I wish you all safe passing through the extraordinary period we are presently experiencing. It is beholding on all of us to adhere to the restrictions we may see as draconian, but we should embrace them, as the sooner we all apply them to our daily routines, the sooner we will get back to some level of normality.

RWP

