



Muree Golf Club Newsletter

MUREE NEWS

The AGM held late last month saw the retirement of Pam Pirini after 14 years of service to the Club on the board. Pam has greatly contributed to the management of Muree over the years serving as Vice President for a number of years as well as President of the Ladies committee. Two other board members also stood down, Andrew Berry after two years and Kathy Dray after a year. I thank these dedicated members for their input and energy in making Muree Golf Club a better golfing and social experience. Their departure left three vacancies, one of which was filled by Bernie Roberts a local Terrace resident and owner of the Carline Automotive business. The two vacancies will now be referred to the Board for a determination on filling these positions. The Club has a new Life Member, Ken Austin was endorsed by the Board and ratified by the members present at the AGM for service to Muree for over 20 years as a volunteer and board member. Congratulations to Ken on this deserved recognition.

The financial outcome for the Club was a modest profit of just under \$50,000, a very satisfying result given the COVID 19 closure of the Club for two months and the reduction in the number of members and guests allowed in the Clubhouse under the present restrictions. In the current climate, the restrictions of one person per four square metres, being seated whilst in the Clubhouse and no bookings of groups larger than 30 persons are going to be with us for a while yet. This has also effected the operating hours of the Club, particularly Mondays and Tuesdays, which are unlikely to return to pre COVID 19 times until all these restrictions are lifted.

The Board have endorsed the recruitment of a new Club Manager who will commence employment with the Club on 07 Dec 20. Jordan Jenkins has been the licensee of the Tennant Creek Hotel for the past eight years and comes to us looking for a sea change as his young family resided in Darwin for the last few years of his tenure. I'm sure you will all make him welcome once he commences work at the Club. I take this opportunity to thank Sally Mitchell who has done an outstanding job of managing all aspects of the business of running a golf club and ensuring that the two years she has been in charge, the Club has turned an operating profit and the golf course has never looked better.

There is movement on the development front, the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) have finally issued a Site Compatibility Certificate after our application, which was initially submitted in June 2019, was approved, although with some caveats. Lincoln Place will now work with the architects and planners to interpret the qualifications into the design and a meeting with Port Stephens Council will then be arranged to ensure a smooth transition through the Development Application (DA) phase. I will keep you posted on this issue and once we have updated drawings, I will make sure that they are posted in the Clubhouse noticeboard.



Barry Marshall Solicitor



Our volunteers have been busy over the past months with many tasks being undertaken but the one that is most prominent is the painting of the external surfaces of the Clubhouse. While not yet completely finished, the visual improvement is very obvious. There has also been considerable work done on the path to the to the 5th green, with drainage completed by our resident civil expert Len Heke. Len has also been working on the bridges and steps of the 5th teeing area. To all our volunteers we thank you for your time and effort.

Mad Asia, our new caterers have commenced operation and they have been a hit with members and the locals who are now joining the Club to access their wide ranging menu. The Club has not received one complaint regarding the quality and I encourage those that have not yet tried their menu, to do so, as you will not be disappointed. The Raffles have recommenced with the free member's raffle on Wednesday evenings, the Friday evening Mega Meat Raffles and the Sunday arvo Fisho's Raffle. All meat is supplied by one of our sponsors, Medowie Meats and the quality is excellent so I ask that you support the Club and our sponsors. Thursday evenings there is a member's cash draw which increases each week by \$100 and is now up to \$1,400. Members must be in the Club between 6:00pm and 8:00pm to win the draw and there is a consolation prize of a drink voucher for one lucky member that is drawn from members that are present on the evening.

The course is looking as good as it has ever been with greens playing true and smooth. There are some areas of the "closely mown general area" (closely mown portion of the fairways), that have been attacked by nematodes. Our superintendent has developed a program to remove them but it will take a few weeks to see any obvious change. In the meantime, a fertilising schedule is being used to encourage the growth of new grass on these areas. I ask our members not drive their carts or walk through these areas while they are being treated.

We are now half way through the Club Championships and some good scores are being registered by members of all grades. Good luck to those in contention, and to those like myself that have very little chance of recovery, there's always next year. As an aside, the Newcastle District Golfing Association (NDGA) is to hold the A Grade District Championships at Muree on Sunday 15th of November. I encourage our low marker members to register for his event, just see Stretch or look for the nomination forms on the Notice Board.

RWP

