



Autumn Edition 2017

NOWRA *Golf and Recreation Club*

From the Board....

Members, we need your help!! Our financial position is worse than expected, and to be able to continue with the amalgamation process with Bomaderry Bowling Club we need more cash in the bank. You will probably be aware of the \$5 levy on all competition rounds until June 30, but there are other ways that you can help.

You could choose to relinquish some of the balls on your ball account (ask Golf Shop staff), some of the money on your bar account (ask Bar Staff) or simply make a donation (over the bar or post a cheque). Any amount would be greatly appreciated.

Merger Process

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has now been signed by both clubs and is available to read on the club website (www.nowragolf.com.au). Representatives from our Board are meeting with the BBC Board on 20 March to iron out some details about the way ahead. The final figures for the year were poorer than anticipated but our business case for the amalgamation is still strong.

If this is approved, there will be an information evening and then we will call a Extraordinary General Meeting for members to vote. Then it will pass to the Bomaderry Bowling Club members to vote.

Changes

You will have noticed a lot of changes recently, with the Golf Shop moving inside, giving a new atmosphere to the clubhouse. Peter, Ken and Mel are there to help us during the busier times.

The Bistro now only opens on Friday nights, so come along and enjoy raffle night and a sumptuous meal. We were sorry to see Paul & Keira leave, but we wish them well for the future.

The Friday raffle has changed with 16 x \$25 vouchers raffled, 3 x \$10 Trivia questions, second chance draw out of the barrel, 1st 1 x \$50, 2nd 1 x \$20 vouchers. The Monthly Draw will be one ticket drawn from the barrel, where the you must be present to win, for the starting prize of \$100. If the \$100 isn't won, it jackpots to \$200 the next month, to a maximum of \$500, when tickets are drawn until someone present wins.

The bar is now open for seven days, with the Golf Shop staff and bar staff becoming multi-skilled. We welcome Sonya Midson, who is in charge of the Bar, with Cathy, Robert and Sophie helping when required.

On the course, Josh is still in charge, with Kyle Williams, who has come over from BBC and has just finished his apprenticeship, and Brad Saibura.

Looking forward

It will be business as usual, providing the MOU is approved. If it is approved the Board will be dissolved and become the Men's Golf Committee, to oversee the Men's golf in a similar manner to Women's Golf Nowra and the Nowra Veterans.

Good golfing!!

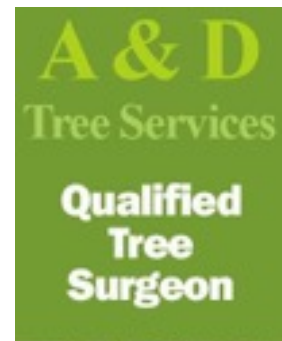
**Tony Hunter
President**



Nowra Golf Club Board 2017

(Back) from Left Noel Rosskelly, Tony Hunter, Colin Lott, Geoff McVey, Joel Perkins
(Front) Derek Trusler, Jill Downie, Grant Gleeson, Greg Jennings

Please Support our Sponsors!



Course Report....

The last few months have been a struggle with weather conditions not being ideal. January and February were the worst months, with temperatures constantly in excess of 35 degrees. When the rain finally came it was heavy. Over 170ml of rain fell in a short period in February, followed by two days with temperatures in the forties. Not ideal conditions!

As I write this report we have just copped a minor east coast low which dumped another 200ml of rain on an already soggy course. Unfortunately these conditions bring disease problems such as pythium blight and dollar spot, which thrive in wet soil and warm days. Thankfully we are almost through the worst of these conditions and can push through till winter when the risk of disease is minimal.

There are a couple of new faces on staff that you may see around the course. Kyle, my assistant and the youngest crew member, has come across from Bomaderry Bowling Club. Don't be put off by the tatoos! He may look scary but is really quite the opposite and is fitting in well. The other face you'll see is Brad, our new groundsman. He comes to us from the mid north coast and has previous experience on golf courses. He too is adapting well to the routines of the Nowra course. Say "G'day" when you see them around the traps.....they won't bite!!

On a sad note, we have unfortunately lost our old tractor. It has finally broken beyond repair after giving us thirty-four years of faithful service. It was the mainstay of our equipment, arriving at the course in 1983 and, according to George the mechanic's records, was second hand even then!

I look forward to seeing you all out golfing and all I can say is " Bring on Autumn and Winter!"

Joshua Francis
Course Superintendent



From the Red Tees....

It's great to back in full swing on the course after our Christmas/New Year break. The weather conditions have been challenging from the outset of the year, with extreme heat and humidity taxing even the most well seasoned golfers followed by plenty of rain causing havoc with the first Monthly Medal. However, let's not complain too much about the rain as it was much needed to enable the course to recover from the heat.

The 2017 Committee has enthusiastically launched themselves into their duties and working diligently behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the competition each week. We particularly welcome Cathy Ison to the fold and she has been busy learning the ropes and proving to be a valuable member of the team. At the January meeting the Match Committee was elected and the members for 2017 are Sue Hunter, Jenny Brown, Trish Austin and Fay Wright.

At the first Match Committee meeting of the year, it was determined that our weekly competitions will continue over three divisions. The Handicap range for each division is Division 1: 0 - 25, Division 2: 26 - 31 and Division 3: 32 - 45.

I would like to say a big thank you to Sandra Marshall who has stepped up to take over the WGN publicity, to Jill Levi for continuing to coordinate outside tournaments as well as run the Friday Beginners Group and Carol Cowden and Lorna Knott who will be assisting the Committee by going on the roster for distributing the Nearest the Pins.

Women's Golf Illawarra

The Pennant season will kick off in April/May with Nowra having a team in each the Gold and Bronze divisions. The Highlands have now joined the Illawarra women's competition and have fielded a Bronze division team. It will be interesting for the Nowra contingent to play that course on their initial match of the year.

The draw for the 2017 Pennants rounds are displayed on the board in the locker room together with a nomination sheet. If you are intending to play as either a permanent team member or substitute player please add your name to the list.



The Nowra teams will be ably led by Jill Levi (Gold) and Jenny Brown (Bronze). Good luck Nowra for the 2017 Pennant Competition.

There is a change this year in the format for the Women's 4BBB Par event. In previous years there has been a Club qualifying round and the qualifying pairs would progress to the District Round "on the road to Bonville". GNSW has given district committees the option of continuing this format or doing away with the Club qualifying games. The Illawarra district has opted to only hold a district round and this will be held at Shell Cove on 28th August. Please support WGI and line up your partners for this event - any club pairs can enter.

A Bit of History

Some golfers may be aware that in the early part of the 20th Century, Nowra Golf course occupied the area of land upon which the Shoalhaven Hospital now stands. Recently our committee were contacted by Meroogal Historic House guides regarding some old golf clubs and a golf bag that they had found in the house under the stairs.

The set, which is comprised of three clubs and a putter with hickory shafts, are in very good condition and highly valued. Sue Stephens, Angela Boadle and I attended a private viewing of these clubs at which we were treated to hearing some of the history associated with them.

Meerogal House, which was constructed in West Street in 1886, was occupied by four generations of women from the same family and one of the members of that family, "Tottie" Thorburn, was a keen golfer. Old newspaper articles tell of her pursuits at golf with one recording her winning the Mixed Foursomes Championships one year. She was at some time the Secretary of the Nowra Golf Club. I doubt that they



would have had a women's committee back then, so it seems that "Tottie" was a woman before her time.

The Curator, Nicole Ison and one of the guides, Sue Lenne, a keen golfer herself, are eager to honour "Tottie"s" golfing achievements. Sue, Angela and I came up with the idea of incorporating this event into our Open Hospital Charity Day which is held on 25th May. It will be an Irish Countdown Stableford with a difference - a Three Clubs and a Putter game.

It is also fitting that the proceeds of the day will be donated to the Shoalhaven Hospital Auxiliary and the ladies from Meroogal will also attend to give us more of a rundown on some history. If you have friends at other clubs, encourage them to enter some teams. It will prove to be a fun filled day.

I have also been given some letters dating back to the 1950's between the Secretary of the LGU (Ladies Golf Union), Mrs Ducker and the Secretary of the Nepean-Illawarra Association district course rater, Mrs Downes regarding the original rating of the Nowra course for "Associates". It makes for very interesting reading and there is also a hole by hole description of the course, which in many cases does not relate to our course today.

Following is an excerpt of the letter from Mrs Downes to the LGU January 1955:

"The fairways have been defined by a row of trees,(some not yet planted, others about 3 ft in height) consisting of Flame, Jacaranda, Flowering Gum and Prunus, so when they are all in flower the Course should look very beautiful.

The Course was very wet as I visited it after they had 4 inches of rain, but it should be a good indication of winter conditions. In fact it is one of the nicest courses I have seen for a long time. The holes are well placed and it will be an interesting test of golf."

Today, the Nowra Golf Course still maintains the beauty of yesteryear with its stunning natural features of the escarpment, the bushland and the river. Now we also have the advantage of its wonderful established trees. We are truly lucky to enjoy these beautiful surroundings each week.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Medal

Thank you Linda Trusler who will again be generously sponsoring the "Monthly Glass Winner" for the lowest net score each month in our Monthly Medal rounds.

The first WGN and Golf NSW Medal will be played on 9th March having been postponed

Women's Committee 2017

President - Sue Stephens

Vice President - Angela Boadle

Captain - Sue Hunter

Vice Captain - Jenny Brown

Secretaries - Sandra Rigney & Angela Boadle

Treasurer and Handicap Manager - Patricia Austin

Committee - Cathy Ison, Fay Wright

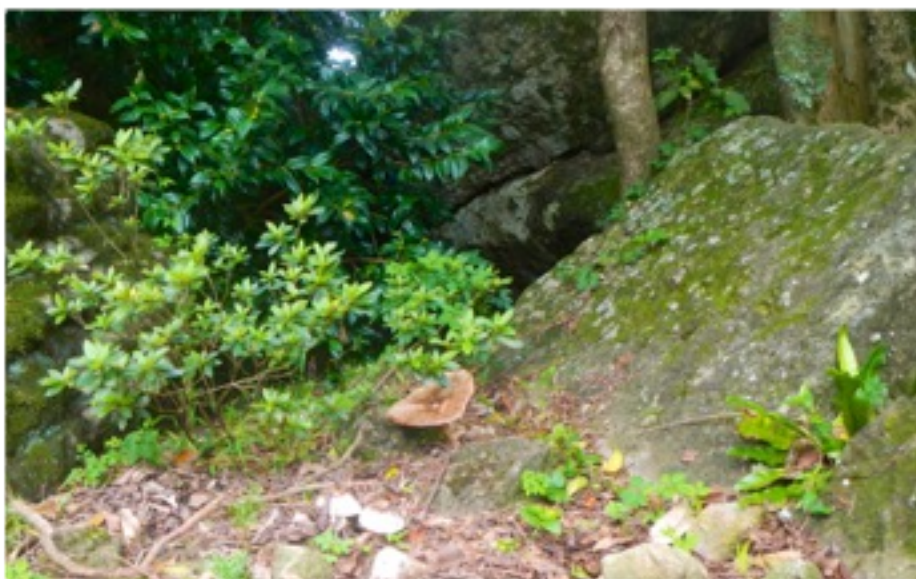
due to wet weather. In April, the medal will be played in conjunction with the WGI Trophy. The entry fee is \$2/player and the more entrants we have, the more winners we have at club level. Winners are presented with prizes by WGI and are then eligible to play for the valuable WGI Trophy at the District Tournament in October.

Pairs Special Sixes Stableford

We thank Patricia Austin for sponsoring for this event which is new to WGN. There's nothing like having your brain challenged at golf and this is a "doozie" where you have six holes of Better Ball, six holes of Aggregate and six holes of Multiplier. Thank goodness for modern technology - the computer will work it all out for you.

Nutrimetics Day

Wendy Woodward, our local Nutrimetics Representative has been extremely generous with her sponsorship of Women's Golf Nowra. The team event set down for 20th April will be a 4BBB and we look forward to Wendy giving us some information regarding the latest products and there will be some worthwhile prizes to be won.



Foursomes Championships

Our women members are renowned for their support of the Foursomes Championships. This year they are scheduled for 11th May so line up your partners, discuss some team tactics and I am sure you will look forward to playing in the beautiful conditions that Autumn presents. This will be a good warm up for the Mixed Foursomes Championships on Sunday 14th May.

Open Hospital Auxiliary Charity Day

As previously mentioned this is scheduled for 25th May - Irish Countdown Stableford Three Clubs and a Putter (see "A Little Bit of History") above. We need much support from our women members to keep the competitions viable and to assist our Golf Club going into the future.

I'll see you on the red tees.

Sue Hunter
Women's Captain

From the Blue Tees....

Junior Program

Our Junior program should be up and running by the time you read this. Professional Graeme Bugden will be running our program on a Thursday afternoon from 4 to 5 pm for children aged between 8 and 12 years. All equipment is supplied and the fee for each junior is \$5 each session.



Booking is essential. Ring the golf shop on 4421 2249.

We thank Jack Newton Junior Golf for their assistance in getting this up and running. We are looking for members to assist Graeme on a Thursday afternoon, only 1 required per session (no qualification or golfing ability required). I already have 3 members willing to put their hand up, so only need a few more.

Men's Foursomes Championships 23 April 2017

A big thanks to Col Templeton and Peter Calvert who have put their hand up to sponsor this day. Last year at the presentation, Col and Peter were very disappointed in the numbers participating. They decided then and there to sponsor this event to the tune of \$1000 in prizes, in the hope of getting a little more interest back into our championship events. A time sheet is now on the system. Please show your support and find a partner and book in ASAP.

Shoalhaven Cup, Change of date

Nowra Open (Illawarra Open Series) Now 8 July 2017.

The Cup was down in the fixtures book to be run on the 13 May, but due to conflicts in timing with other Illawarra and Shoalhaven Clubs, we have found it necessary to change this to the **8th of July**.

Thanks

I don't normally single out the devoted members of this club who contribute their time in assisting this club, as you always miss someone, but there are a couple of members, I would like to single out.

John Hatchman Many members with electric golf buggies and carts have benefited from his knowledge and in the years I have known him, on every occasion I have asked for help he has always been ready and able to assist me.

Warwick Merchant Another one who sometimes runs under the radar. This year I have seen him there fixing fences, trimming trees, breaking up large boulders on the path to the 8th green, anything that is needed, I bet most of the members have benefited from the job he did trimming the lower branches particularly those couple of trees on the left side of the first and sixth fairways.

Thank you not only to these two but, to all the members, from our Trophy Sponsors to those who give their time to assist with all the various tasks at our club.

Congratulations

Derek Trusler was elected unopposed as Vice Captain at the AGM on Tuesday 28 February and he is going to be ably assisted in that position by Joel Perkins who was also elected at the AGM. Looking forward to working with you guys and the rest of the new Board.

Col Lott Captain



Veterans Bushcare....

The course looks beautiful at present, following the much needed rain. How many of you have noticed the lovely flowering Ivory Curl trees near the 18th tee?

We have planted a number of miniature azaleas in front of the 18th tee recently. These were kindly provided by the women golfers. Keeping them and other new plants around the course watered, during the hot conditions, has taken up much of our time. Jill Downie has also planted a number of plants to help beautify the gardens around the clubhouse.

On going targeting of invasive weeds such as wandering jew, camphor laurel, milk vine and privet has also been undertaken, particularly in the roadside area adjacent to the pathway between the 14th green and 15th tee.

Weeding of other garden areas is always a work in progress.

Recurring maintenance in recent months has included:-

1. Weed control measures and tidying up near clubhouse.
2. Mowing in front of the car parks and the front of the 8th tee.

The Bushcare Group would like to thank all members who attended the working bee prior to the Vets Week

Of Golf in February. An amazing amount of work was carried out on that day. The removal of accumulated branches and debris that we had been previously unable to move was certainly appreciated. So too was the mowing, whipper snipping, tee blowing, weeding and pruning that was done on that day. We hope to have a few more such days throughout the year. As the old saying goes "Many hands make light work!"



John Pratt & Roger Hardy
Coordinators

From the Vets.....

In the current soggy conditions of the Nowra Golf Club, the Vets have been blessed with less soggy Tuesdays and have been able to get on the track. Unfortunately the rest of the days of the week have not fared so well.

There seems to be a much stronger desire to play our wonderful game amongst our 'veteran' population. This is the generation whose determination has helped shape this country. Either that, or we are just mad golfers!!

If you have been a regular attendee of our Annual General Meetings, you would be aware that if 40 members attended it is a good result. Our recent meeting saw more than 150 people attend and voting was needed to finalise a new board! It was a very rewarding evening. Sad for some, but congratulations to all successful candidates.

In closing, it would be remiss of me to not thank our past President David Bisiker for his persistent efforts, with others, to keep this club afloat in some very precarious times. It is now up to you all to support The Nowra Golf Club by spending time there when you can.

Take care,
JH

