



Muree Golf Club

Newsletter

MUREE NEWS

Your Committee and Management Team

There has been a push in both Golf Australia and Golf NSW to promote the Play 9 competition. The promotion seeks to target those time poor golfers that are unable to commit to the usual 18 hole competitions due to family or work commitments. The Board has agreed to initiate a 9 hole competition on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and will start once daylight saving has concluded. We have targeted the weekend of 7 & 8 April to commence this initiative, with a tee off time between 1:00pm and 2:30pm to ensure players finish before it gets dark. So for our members that work on Saturday or Sunday mornings or are busy with kids sport, this option gives an opportunity to play in a comp and ensure that you are handicapped on the result. The usual competitions will apply, i.e. there will be a minimum number of players, but the idea is to get out on the course and play golf.

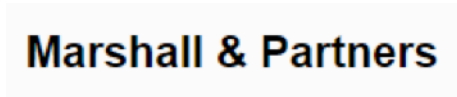
As advised in the January newsletter, the Port Stephens Council have sought Quantity Surveyor (QS) certification on our Development Application (DA) for 62 units. We engaged a QS and some issues arose due to poor communication between our architects and the QS, which has resulted in some drawing alterations. This is a time consuming issue which I hope will be resolved soon. I will keep you informed of any progress.

You would recall the outcome from the AGM and subsequent Board meeting that ratified the use of up to 50% of accumulated points to pay for Club membership. This is a reminder that your points accumulated from 01 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, will be deleted if not used by close of business, 30 June 2018. I also remind you that the Board will review this decision once the financial reports for the annual trading period 2017/18 are released.

Our Pennants played in the final earlier this month at Newcastle Golf Club against Belmont. After the completion of the matches, Muree and Belmont were tied at 4 all. Unfortunately, Muree lost in a play-off, this is the second year in a row that we have missed out by the thinnest of margins. Congratulations to our team as they represented Muree extremely well playing some outstanding golf under considerable pressure from the opposition.

The subject of practice area and defined practice areas has become talked about topic recently. The Rules of Golf define the requirements of players regarding practice prior to the commencement of competition. I advise that you should read and understand this area of the rules. The defined practice area at Muree is the practice putting area where it has also become common practice to chip from the fringe around the putting area. Chipping from within a metre to the putting surface is allowed. The Rules of Golf also afford an "exception" to the rules whereby "Practice putting or chipping on or near the first teeing ground" is allowed. Given the close proximity of the first tee to the 18th green, players are allowed to chip and putt at least 10 metres away from the 18th green and adjacent to the first tee. Practice on any other area prior to the day's competition is considered as "testing the surface" and may result in disqualification from that day's competition. This rule covers Stroke play only (Stroke play includes Stableford, Par and other forms of competition with the exclusion of Match Play). Members





involved in Match Play (only) for Club knockout competitions or pennants are allowed to practice on the course prior to their round.

COURSE NEWS

Muree has dodged a bullet with very good rain over a two-week period in late February and again last week. 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.

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 has occurred, as well as coring. These processes should see the greens return to their best in a short period. Our thanks go out to the volunteers that assisted the coring process, their support greatly assists the greens coming back into play more quickly. I certainly hope the members appreciate the effort that our volunteers provide, I know our course staff certainly do.

The September Tree Report was approved by the Board and is available on the website for your viewing. Action on the report will occur when time is available although I'm assured that the trees that have been identified as unsafe are given priority.

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 1st and also landscaping the embankment adjacent to the 12th 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 pavers to pave around the bench seat. The weed that has been removed from the 6th dam was transferred by volunteers using the course machinery. Many thanks to Len Heke, Vern Roberts, Ron Bunting, Al Bland, Barry Todd, Ken Austin 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 reminder to repair their divots and pitch marks as well as rake out bunkers properly.

RWP

