



Muree Golf Club

Newsletter

MUREE NEWS

Your Committee and Management Team

Our Annual General Meeting held early last month saw the return of your management committee unchanged. The AGM approved several changes to our Articles of Association, or our Constitution if you like, that brings the club into line with requirements of ASIC and also ensure the Club membership categories align with our constitution. A new booklet with the changes will be issued early in the new year. Approval was also received at the AGM to investigate options for the sale of the land behind the 6th and 7th fairways. The sale will assist with improvements to the Club and course. We will keep you informed on this issue as it develops.

The Club has reduced the number of gaming machines by three, although we have retained the licenses for the machines that have been disposed for later use. The three machines were so old that we were unable to get replacement parts and updating them at this stage has not been programmed until after March 2017. The Board has agreed to install the Cardit system on all machines. This will bring our gaming into the 21 century. Members will be able to use their membership card to store their winnings and move from machine to machine without using the collect and carry method. The card is PIN protected so if you misplace your card, your winnings are safe until you find your card or get another card supplied by the office. Once the new system is installed, players will be coached by a staff member to ensure a smooth transition to the system.

With the removal of the three gaming machines, the cigarette machine and self-serve Keno machine have been moved into the gaming area. This has been done to allow children into the "fish bowl" area when there are functions on in the Terrace Lounge (auditorium), although the usual guardianship restrictions will apply to patrons and their children.

You will also note that a projector has been installed in the Terrace Lounge and is there for members and guests to watch sport or for function use. So far, the Australian Open, PGA and 3rd Test in Adelaide with the pink ball have been screened. We are hopeful that we can use this for many other events like the Big Bash League, the U.S. Masters Monday breakfast and putting/chipping comp as well as favourites like State of Origin footy.

Our Captain is working with the NDGA to develop next year's golfing program. Suggestions received from members this year are being taken into account to ensure that we cater for all members and provide some variety rather than the stroke round followed by three rounds of Stableford. Our "Month of Golf" is programmed for October again next year with the Pro Am, Muree Cup and Club Championship included.

There is currently an outstanding liability held by the Club of over \$30,000.00 on golfing vouchers in the Pro Shop. Both our previous and current accountants have advised the Board and Management to discharge this sum, or keep it to a manageable amount. Put in simple terms, golfing members that have accrued winnings on their membership card over the past four or so years are being asked to clear their accounts annually. There is no simple way of doing this other than using your accrued amounts to purchase merchandise from the Pro Shop and or using it to pay for next year's fees, but this must be discharged by 30 June 2017. Amounts accrued after 31 March 2017 will be allowed to be carried until June 2018. We understand that this is a sensitive issue for some, consequently if you have any questions





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relating to this decision, please contact the General Manager during business hours to discuss options. Amounts held on the system that have been accrued over the past years will be deleted as at 30 June 2017, with the above caveat on amounts accrued after 31 March 2017.

COURSE NEWS

The warmer weather has arrived and we have not received the amount of spring rain at this point in time to recharge our 5th dam, suffice to say though, the 6th dam is near full. The watering system is holding up well but our fairways are browning off slightly. This is due to a couple of factors, they being that the course is located on a sand bed and sand does not have the moisture retention characteristics of soil and the watering cycle only allows a maximum of 20 minutes per fairway each night, which is not the ideal watering practice. Our superintendent is working extremely hard to ensure the course is in its best condition possible with the resources available to him.

The Board is looking at a couple of opportunities to provide better water security, those are engaging with Hunter Water to revisit the use of recycled water from the waste water plant on Elizabeth Avenue and a bore water array. Both of these option come with a cost and the Board will make sure that whatever opportunity is selected, it will ensure our water security is assured into the future.

Our volunteers have been slowly working through the tree removal list provided by the Tree Committee. The committee will meet again before the end of the year to deal with a number of other trees that have become dangerous in terms of player safety and other mis-planted trees. The volunteers have also been busy raising the height of a number of paths to ensure that when it does rain, we are not left with large puddles of water to walk or drive through. Clean fill has been used to elevate the level of the paths and a road base product will be used to cap the paths once the desired height is reached. This action will take a little time so your patience is sought during the construction period. We have limited resources and manpower and a little inconvenience will occur, but the long term outcome will be a better course for all.

It has been noted that many of our members who use their private carts on the course, totally ignore the direction of the Board and Management and continue to drive too close to greens and tees and fail to use the paths that are provided. The continued use of carts on the course does compress the playing surface and makes it more difficult for moisture to penetrate (and subsequently runs off to the lowest point). The hire carts have a mechanism that prevents users from approaching greens and tees and makes sure in some areas that the paths are used, so we cannot lay blame on social visitors to the course. We ask that private cart users keep the 20 metres from the greens and use that paths around the tees and where provided. The last thing we want to do is appoint a Course Marshall to police players who refuse to adhere to a very simple requirement.

Lastly, the Board and Management wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and hope that the New Year brings good health and better golf to all.

