

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a great 2017.

2017 is going to be a great one for the Golf Club with the commencement of the Residential Development on the cleared site. – The road infrastructure will be completed on the 24th January and it is hoped that the Units will start shortly afterwards.

Several people have expressed an interest in the units, so along with the 11 contracts already signed there are a further 18 who have asked VOS for more details, in particular the costs. Because of the interest, it is expected that VOS will probably build the first 2 stages at the same time.

With the commencement of the Development, further course changes will be necessary. These changes will be minimal in the short term but will retain an 18 hole course. The details of these changes are as follows:



Is the pot of gold at the bottom of the rainbow??????

17th Fairway

The present Par 5 will remain until the new green comes into play around April/May. A catch fence on the RHS of the green will be installed after Christmas. This will prevent balls rolling into the Development area. A free drop zone will be provided for balls that are affected by the fence.

18th Tee and Fairway

A new Tee is being prepared between the 17th green and the ladies 9th Tee area. The old 18th will become a long Par 3. The existing tree adjacent to the green will be removed, giving a clear shot to the green. This arrangement will be ready in January.

In the meantime, the cross over from the 9th & 18th tees will remain but we ask all players to take care when hitting off the tees, ensuring that no groups are within hitting distance.

The Course Committee are looking at the possibility of reconfiguring the 18 holes with the outside 9 holes being Holes 1-9 and the inside 9 being holes 10-18. It is expected this will be decided on in January.

(2)

FIXTURE BOOK

All members should receive a copy of the 2017 fixtures book by email shortly. If you haven't received it by mid January, then please advise Anthony or Jodi who will be happy to send one to you.

COURSE AVAILABILITY

The course and facilities will be closed on Christmas Day but will be open from Boxing Day onwards. The bar will also be open from Boxing Day. Twilight Competition will be continuing after Christmas but meals will not be available after tonight, until the 6th January 2017.

FRIDAY NIGHT JACKPOT

The Jackpot of \$750 will continue this week. If this does not go off, then we will draw until the name of a member in the bar is drawn, who will win \$250 on their house account. There will be a "Happy Hour" every Friday over the festive season.

MOTORISED BUGGIES

Members are reminded that motorised buggies are not to be driven within 5m of greens and tees. It has been noted that this is occurring more regularly and should cease. Care should also be taken in the new work around the 9th, 17th and 18th.

CLAREMONT MENS SHED

The Club has received a request by this Community Organisation to construct a 160 sq m facility at the Club. AS we have started to look at the relocation of the Green Staff workshop, we believe the two facilities can be adjacent to each other. There are several Grants available so both Clubs are working together to develop the proposal. Initial discussions have been held and the likely location of the building is adjacent to the 150m marker on the first fairway between the spoon drain and Cadbury's property. A road will need to be provided into the site, so minor changes around the 1st and 12th tees will need to occur. Parking of cars will be located on the Cadbury side of the building to protect them from golf balls.

The existing workshop will be converted into a Buggy storage facility – it is expected that it will hold around 20 carts so members who presently trailer to the Club, will be able to leave their cart for a small fee.

KITCHEN

If you haven't already heard, Mike Edgerton will be closing Bistro 19 on the 31st December. He has decided to work for an employer, so we extend our best wishes to Mike and his family for the future.

The good news is that the Board has been able to arrange a contract with Mr Brendan Garland, the manager of the Wagon and Horses Hotel and the Glenorchy RSL Club dining facilities. He comes with a team of up 40 staff who will work at the 3 venues depending on demands. His team will provide food for all competition days that the Club holds, Corporate Days and functions such as weddings, engagements and birthdays. He also intends to open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night for dinner as well as probably Sunday lunches.

(3)

If the standard of meals he has at his other two venues is anything to go by, visitors and members to the Club will leave happy with their meals.

Brendan will start on the 1st January, so if you would like a meal out, then give Jodi a ring to book a table.

HOUSE ACCOUNT

The Club has been advised that the new software for house accounts and memberships will be installed around the 15th January. This will then enable all members to use their house accounts in the bar, restaurant and Shop. We will advise of the installation as soon as it occurs.

WORKSKILLS

The Club has now had Workskills participants at the Club for 12 months. Their assistance to the green staff has been worthwhile and it is hoped that we can have an extension to the arrangement, going forward in 2017. We are looking for members, who are retired, to mentor them and supervise their daily attendance at the Club. If you have 5 hours to spare on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday and would like to get involved, then please advise Anthony. Dad's Army are looking for more helpers as well. They normally spend 4 hours every Thursday so if you have time to spare, then please let Phil Brown or Paul Nation know. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

CLUB FUNDRAISING

Recently the Club has had 2 very successful Fund raising days – The Corporate Cup and the Michael Scott Day. To both organising teams, the Board and members thank you for the hard work you put into these days. Between the two days, a total amount of \$27,000 was raised for projects around the Club. Great effort everyone – THANK YOU

I would also like to thank Jo Brown for the effort she puts into the raffles and sports cards at various times through the year. The money she raises help the Club to buy equipment such as fridges, the house account cash registers and computer equipment.

Whilst I am mentioning raffles, Neil Harper needs to be congratulated on the effort he puts into the meat raffles sold primarily on Friday nights. The raffle has raised more than \$10K over the last 12 months and has assisted us in several areas of Club improvements. He gets enjoyment in giving away the booby prize each week.

Once again, thank you all for all your fundraising efforts – it has been a real team effort.

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has now reached 510 which is a great achievement in 18 months. Our membership on the 30th June 2015 was 259, so in 18 months we have increased by 251. We understand Mowbray and Tasmania Golf Clubs have copied our Quantum membership which shows us that we must be doing things right, especially as most Golf Clubs memberships are declining.

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Last week we had a visit from Paul Vardy (Club & Facilities Support Manager) from Golf Australia. We were selected to participate in the Intensive Club Support Pilot Program. As part of his review of the Club's Organisation, Promotional Facilities, Memberships, Marketing, Financial position and strategic Planning, he will identify areas that can be improved. We are the first Club to be assessed in this pilot programme, which is to be conducted in every state of Australia. Golf Australia are offering us assistance in Community Instructor programs, promotional facilities, Junior Coaching programs, Government Grant applications and Organisation documentation, as they recognise our Club is progressing in a positive way. This review will have a follow up in 6 and 12 months by Paul.

**To all our staff and volunteers,
thank you for your hard work during the year – it is greatly appreciated.**

*I would like to extend Seasons greetings to all and hope that
your Christmas and New Year is a happy time for you.*

I look forward to seeing you at the Club in 2017.

Brian Richardson (President)