



Newsletter

Spring 2018

Yes, the days are getting longer – more time for golf! Bit wet of late though.

59th AGM - Saturday September, 29

This new management committee elected on the day will be working for you:

President - Leon Radunz
Vice-president - Harry Howard
Treasurer - Merv Tappenden
Captain - Todd Blocksidge
Vice-captain - Keith Fraser
Five Committee members
Kevin Arnold
Garry Ronco
Jimmy Dunn
John Young and
Andrew Curtis

The Ray White Open October, 12, 13 and 14

A great deal of planning went into this great event. Many thanks go to the working group of Roger Wilson, Todd Blocksidge and Andrew Revie and his team, plus the help from Keith Fraser, Maurie Payne and others.

Importantly, the commitment from Rod Stehr of Ray White Rural to be the main sponsor each year is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, the persistent rain put a dampener on the two qualifying days, culminating in a really wet Sunday which forced the eventual cancellation of the final day's round.

The overall winner was the new member Simon White, seen here receiving his prize from Todd our Captain.



Simon had the best stableford score on the Friday and Lewis Hood had the best score in Saturday's round. Lewis had a gross score of 68 for the day, an excellent score, especially considering the blustery conditions.



Given that there was no final, the overall prize was awarded to Simon.

We all hope for better weather in 2019.

INTERCLUB RESULTS

The Interclub competition commenced on Sunday July 8 at Emerald Lakes with the remaining two teams in the "Orange" section being Sanctuary Cove and Gainsborough Greens. There were six members in each team for A, B and C grades and shirts were provided to all players, courtesy of Richard Pickering of RBP Bobcats and Kevin Arnold of HPP. Many thanks go to you both from the club for your generosity.

The teams in all their finery!
A grade



B grade



And the C grade team too.



Only the A team made a final but sadly they went down to Parkwood International in a very close match.

The overall best player during the competition will be announced at the Presentation evening-cum-Christmas party to be held on Friday November 16. Bookings are available at the Pro shop.

FOOD ON THE FAIRWAYS – August 26

There must be a hex on the club because this first-time event was also almost rained out. Fortunately, the clouds lifted for most of the afternoon so those who attended still had a great time.



RECENT CHANGES ON THE COURSE

The coring renovation of the greens took place on August 27 and haven't the surfaces come back beautifully? Spring regrowth by far exceeds the recovery rate from the autumn renovation.

While we are on the subject of grass growth, I want now to explain to you that the hot summer months seriously reduce the depth and strength of the bent grass root system and that is why in late summer/early autumn the greens look weak and show the pitch marks to a greater extent than now. Nothing we can do about that except perhaps to install underground cooling coils to reduce the temperature of the upper soil layer to protect the roots. No seriously!

But fear not, the grass will not be in terminal decline and will recover in the spring, as it has done recently.



Thanks to the handsome volunteers Garry Ronco, Terry O'Donnell, Jimmy Dunn, Tony Hall, Gavin McConnell and Jeremy White for helping Wayne out in this very important task of turf management. They lifted off the plug corings left on the greens behind the coring machine.

With the recent rains, the course is looking just an absolute picture.

We have purchased new cart directional signs, new flags for the pins, new towels for the ball washer stands and new sand buckets to give a good impression for visitors and members alike.

New pitch repair signs have been installed at strategic places on the course and there are more to come. Please note how to correctly repair a pitch mark on a bent grass green.

The committee has plans for using the free pile of dirt near the machinery shed to remodel the bunker at the third green and perhaps install some rolling mounds behind that green for an interesting visual effect.

RECENT CHANGES IN THE CLUBHOUSE

New signs have been installed at the entrance and you would have noticed the frame for the new ceiling over the BBQ area. We will soon fill in the gaps with panels to complete that area. All that remains is to find an appropriate surface covering for the tatty concrete floor. Working on that too!

The front deck has been reoiled and the gardens and potted plants around the clubhouse

refreshed and we plan to repaint the railings on the front deck when the weather lifts.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES

We have had to replace the failed water pump for the clubhouse, the irrigation controller in the machinery shed and refurbish the bore pump which fills the storage tanks for irrigating the greens. Also, the beer lines in the big cool room have been replaced and the system serviced.

LATEST NEWS ABOUT ONE GOLF

One Golf is effectively bringing all participating state and territory governing bodies under the umbrella of Golf Australia with the plan being to have One Golf operating in every jurisdiction in Australia and for golf to have the most efficient, streamlined and unified governance structure in Australian sport.

GRANTS

Our Marketing guru Roger Wilson has applied for a grant of \$8,000 to promote membership by mirroring a successful program that was run two years ago. Hopefully we will receive that money in time for a summer launch.

We have also applied for grants to build a second machinery shed and so far, have received \$11,000 from SRRRC as seed funding allowing a second application to be made to the State Government for the remaining \$32,000. We should hear the result in December and hope to move the machinery that currently sits out in the weather under the protection of a shed.

NEWS FROM THE PRO SHOP

Goodbye Winter.

With the warmer months fast approaching, check out our new range of summer apparel that should be arriving very soon.

Also, for Oct/Nov we are doing a special on re grips, so if your grips are a little worn out check out our great range and we will be more than happy to help.

As some of you may know I will be away recovering from bi-lateral hip surgery on October 26, which will have my laid up through to

November but hopefully, I will be up and going soon after.

TRAINEE NEWS:

In the last few months Nev has been working pretty hard on his game with some mixed results. He recently finished 7th in the stroke play of the Pampling Plate and also had a win at Virginia firing a one under par that included six birdies and an eagle.

CLUB NEWS:

Bookings can be made at the bar for the Melbourne Cup Lunch on Tuesday November 6. Again, its sure to be a great event, and the Calcutta auction to be done by Gavin McConnell, is bound to bring a few laughs.

Our Friday night fusion is still getting great support from members and guests and for that we are grateful and we appreciate your continual support.

JUNIORS:

Congratulations goes out to two of our enthusiastic female juniors Coco and Saya Iritani who recently finished 1st and 2nd at the Windaroo junior championship. They seem to be improving every time I see them.

Regards

From Andrew and Team

UPCOMING EVENTS

As usual, the club will host the Melbourne Cup party on Tuesday November 6 and arrangements are well in place for this fun event. See Andrew's team for details and table bookings.

The annual Presentation night will take place on Friday November 16 and this is also an event not to be missed.

NEW RULES STARTING JANUARY 1

Only a few months to go so it is suggested that you start the familiarisation process. The club's website has links to useful videos and the R&A and Golf Australia have developed a series of resources to help the transition to the new Rules which will take effect on January 1, 2019.

New rule books are available in the clubhouse.

ARE THE GUM TREES DYING?

No, they are being damaged by leaf-sucking insects.

You would have noticed that some of the gum trees on the mountain have taken on a distinct scorched or burnt appearance and many leaves are dropping.

The white lace lerp, a *Cardiaspina* species, secretes a lace-like covering under which it lives to suck the sap causing necrotic lesions which form around feeding sites. At high population densities, the whole leaf is damaged and shed causing severe defoliation. These extreme events occurs sporadically and are thought to be a result of dry periods which weaken the trees allowing the insects to get a greater hold. I remember a similar episode about seven years ago.

Several birds prey on the insects but the sheer numbers overwhelm their capacity to keep the numbers in check.

Eventually the current explosion will collapse and the trees will recover by sending out new leaves.



MORE COURSES ARE CLOSING

In a recent newsletter I asked the question, somewhat rhetorically, after the closure of the Gold Coast Country club, and then Helensvale, which club will be next? Well it didn't take long.

North Lakes Resort Golf Club will close at the end of 2019 due to continued financial losses.

Club General Manager Adam Simpson said the privately-run business had been operating at a loss in recent years due to a well-documented downturn in golf participation rates.

He said efforts to sell the golf course to another golf operator have been unsuccessful and the course owner is selling the land to The Village Retirement Group for a retirement living and aged-care facility whilst the vast majority of the course (57 hectares) will be retained for open public space.

Pelican Waters

Along the same lines, part of the Greg Norman-designed Pelican Waters golf course is for sale by the Melbourne family that acquired the site in 2004, for \$20 million. Because of low profitability, to make ends meet, the owners propose a residential development on part of the 160 hectares. The new "Lakes Edge" residential precinct will be developed over four stages.

Featherston Golf Club

In Victoria, the 116-year-old club is winding up and its 18-hole course a couple of kilometres south of the Wairarapa town is being sold, much to the disappointment of the stalwart members.

News of Helensvale

The saga continues for the closed Gold Coast City Council owned Helensvale Golf Course as it fails to secure a suitable course operator. The once-popular Gold Coast community golf club ceased all operations earlier this year after its leaseholder, Jigsaw Community Services, went into liquidation.

According to area Councillor William Owen-Jones, Council Officers are yet to find an appropriate party to take over the operation of the course. The former membership-based club has had a chequered past with financial and operational issues over the past decade leading to the closure.

SO, IT IS CLEAR THAT MANY CLUBS THAT ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND RUN ARE NO LONGER FINANCIALLY VIABLE.

Who is playing golf in Australia?

Golf Australia recently released its fifth golf participation report presenting last year's figures and trends on membership, competition rounds, general participation and specific program participation. Ten million rounds were played in 2017.

The report includes data from the different states and territories included data from people who played over the 12-month period. There are 390,000 members of the 1,500 golf clubs in Australia (1.5% of the population). The figures show a cumulative loss in total club members of 3.4% over the past five-year period, which equates to an average decline of 0.7% per year.

Whilst memberships declined by 5,000 last year, on the other hand, social play is increasing, now representing 5.6% of the golf played.

Clive Palmer's removal of memberships from the Colonial course would no doubt have contributed to the numbers.

It is obvious that golf as a sport is declining and that there are too many clubs for those that do play. Moreover, there is much more money to be made from developing golf course land for housing than from running a golf course with its many overheads. Hence the course closures.

What about the future of TMGC?

Your little club is financially sound as the committee runs a very lean ship indeed. Because of that conservative and responsible management, and despite the limited income and resources available to us, the facilities continue to be improved and I would like to end this Newsletter by thanking the hard-working club members and volunteers who make this possible.

Thank you very much!

Lastly, on behalf of the members of TMGC, may I wish Andrew Revie all the best with his forthcoming surgery. Get well soon Andrew.

See you on the course one day.

Regards

Leon Radunz

President

TMGC

Under the regulations of the Office of Fair Trading the management committee is required to inform the membership that the club has a public liability insurance cover of \$10 million.