

Murrumbidgee Country Club

MEMBERS'

NEWSLETTER

April 2009

To receive your regular Newsletter by email, send your email address to Sue Terry at:
admin@mccgolfclub.com

Water Conservation

It has been over 2 years since we faced the dry conditions we now endure, and the board is preparing contingency plans, in case the situation worsens.



Course Super Mark Lee and Director of Golf Ross Lee, have decided to immediately cut back watering fairways to save water for Tees & Greens. Mark Lee believes that **if** we get rain soon most of our fairways should bounce back reasonably okay. We must however, take immediate steps to reduce expenditure and water use-age in the event that we have to purchase water. We now have a very similar problem and the board has adopted a similar policy. Discontinue watering fairways and keep some water for Tees & Greens. We are not in a financial position to commit funds to buy water for an unknown period

In temperatures above 30 degrees the full course needs about 1 megalitre of water a day to keep it in an acceptable condition, any less will result in substantial loss of grassed area's.

Tees and Greens are currently using less than 1 megalitre per week.

If we have to buy water at the current rate of \$3700 per megalitre it will cost about \$15,000 per week.

A number of options have and will continue to be discussed and you will be advised of any outcomes. These options do include a water levy but there is always the possibility that any funds collected could be spent before it rains again and benefits would only be short term.

To add to our predicament the dry course and economic downturn have combined to reduce our forecasted green fee income which was increasing nicely up to January.

Increased green & competition fees have helped us financially, but until things improve we be operating with reduced staffing and resources where possible.

It is a difficult and frustrating time for all concerned. We ask for your appreciation and understanding that the board will continue to work in the best interests of everyone.

We have also accepted the recommendation of the green & grounds committee to re-introduce preferred lies 'through the greens' to minimize course damage.

Please make sure you check the notice boards for updates to course rules and conditions.

These measures are necessary, under trying circumstances so please support the loyalty and efforts of management & ground staff.

. We have, over recent weeks met with local politicians to seek support by way of long term water grants, and short term water and/or financial assistance wherever possible. We feel MCC has been overlooked in the past, and we will continue to seek support. We've received encouraging co-operation we hope will come to fruition. *"Watch this space"*

I am extremely grateful to Vince Patulny Rod Brown, Bill Miller, Graeme Walker, and Bob Harvey for their significant input into these submissions. Without who's valuable and bona fide support and research these efforts would not be possible.

Club Vehicle

Club Sponsor **Lennock Motors** have once again demonstrated their support of Murrumbidgee by providing a Nissan X Trail at considerable savings to the club. The vehicle will be used for promotion & by our General Manager in lieu of additional wage & travel expenses. Once again Ross Miles from Canberra Rubber Stamps, has provided the signage at no cost, giving us a valuable promotional vehicle at a time when we must promote our club more whenever possible. Please put our sponsors on your shopping list whenever you need any of their services. And don't hesitate to recommend them to others.



Mike Cornock & Lyndon Costello from Lennock Motors with the MCC X Trail.

Green Fees

Members will now be aware that the new Competition fees are operative from March 2nd. Social green fees have also been increased in order that ALL course players share the load of increased costs and course maintenance.

Club Championships

"It is with regret that the Men's Match Committee advise that the '09Murrumbidgee Open has been cancelled. It is a marquis event for the club and is designed to showcase our course to members and particularly guests. On the heels of the NSW Country Champs, our club took a strong step in regenerating our reputation as a "must play" golf course in Canberra. The Board together with the respective Match Committees were hoping that this momentum could be continued to the Open but sadly, due to no fault other than the "Rain Gods" having deserted us, our course is not in a state that the Committee feels our reputation would continue to be enhanced. We host the NSW Country Championships again in November and it is hoped that we can again build on that event to ensure the 2010 Open is bigger and better than ever.

Mal Thorp .. Men's Captain.

Womens News

The Women's Match Committee has decided to postpone the Open and the Matchplay Challenge. Rescheduling of these events will be considered over the next two months and will be dependent on how well we can fit them into the calendar, keeping in mind how crowded the calendar gets as we move through the year. As the Men's Open has been cancelled, the Match Committee has decided to run a women's comp at Murrumbidgee on that day. We have thanked RMC for accommodating us in the past couple of years.

Nancye Burkevics. Women's Captain

MURRUMBIDGEE COUNTRY CLUB
GOOD FRIDAY MENU
 10 APRIL 2009



ENTRÉE

Jumbo Oysters - 3 Oysters	\$8.90
(See Display) - 6 Oysters	\$15.90
Garlic Prawns	\$10.90

MAIN

Seafood Platter (4 People)	\$99.00*
Include Includes Fish, Prawns, Calamari, Scallops , Salad	
*FREE BOTTLE HOUSE WINE.	
Tuna Pasta	\$15.90
Garlic Prawns & Rice	\$18.90
Seafood Basket - Chips & Salad	\$19.90
Fish & Chips with Salad	\$15.90
Stir Fried Seafood Noodles	\$19.90
Vegetarian Lasagne - Chips & Salad	\$18.90
Scotch Fillet Steak - Chips - Salad or Vegies	\$22.90
Chilli Pork & Rice	\$18.90

DESSERT

Fruit Salad & Ice Cream	\$4.90
Ice Cream & Topping	\$3.50

BOOKINGS LIMITED
 Book early to avoid disappointment



Food for thought.

Club caterer Allan Kim has responded to our suggestions to provide a convenient ‘drive through’ service at the rear BBQ, and the reaction is excellent. Now..as you finish your first 9, be tempted by the burgers & hot dogs on the way through....you will not be disappointed. Oh!!! And do check out our mouthwatering Friday Night Menu. Please try his fabulous Friday Night menu and bring the family. You will be impressed.

Allan also offers a great function menu, ideal for your special events such as birthdays, office parties and family functions. Talk to Sue Terry in the office about your next function at Murrumbidgee. We can even organize the entertainment.

Thursday 17th April Fish & Chip Night.

In response to many requests, and with a view to making it a monthly event on the 3rd Thursday of each month, we will be having a ‘Fish & Chip’ night April 17.

On this night we will present the monthly medals and any other events finalised during each month such as match play, and pennant updates. It will give both match committee's a forum recognise events that have not been given as much recognition as they have deserved.

It will also , if needed give us a forum for an information night for the members.

With everybody’s support, we should be able to make it very successful. Please spread the word to friends, neighbors, and fellow members. Families and group bookings are most welcome. The only thing on the menu will be **FISH & CHIPS & SALAD- COST \$12**

Bookings as early as possible please, at the Bar or by phoning the office on 62962888

Dam Busters

We are currently planning excavation of the substantial dry portion of the main while it is dry. Historically, every time we consider this....it rains. So we consider this an each way bet. Our estimates are that there is a potential to remove about 1 to 1.5 metres from the eastern (dry) end thereby raising the dam's capacity from its current 75 megalitres to over 110 megalitres, which is an increase of 30%. There is a possibility the work will be undertaken at no cost to the club, which is an added bonus.

Couch Fairways

Anybody who has played golf at MCC recently will have noticed that various couch plantings on course have maintained a degree of colour and provided an acceptable playing surface, albeit a small area in relation to the total irrigated area. In addition some trial areas are showing good establishment. Hopefully this will convince the doubters of our need to proceed along the couch path for our fairways. From a technical perspective we have some challenges to address to achieve a good couch outcome but the Green & Ground's Committee and the course Superintendent are in the process of preparing a viable plan to submit to the Board. I would expect that the next growing season (Nov '09 onwards) will see the start of something long overdue in relation to couch fairways.

Ross Lee
Director Golf

Club Volunteers.

We recently compared Murrumbidgee to similar clubs in Australia, and although every club is different in so many ways, a realistic Staff level, based on industry averages would be at least twice the administrative staff, and probably three times the course maintenance and grounds staff.

Although we never find it hard to find the "unfinished" chores, let's be mindful of the work done above & beyond what is expected, by our staff, and in particular the unpaid army of volunteers who regularly donate time, effort and expertise to the club.

So many of these silent heroes are the reason Murrumbidgee has been able to maintain the standards we are so proud of.

I'm going to single out a few of these people each month as they are too many to mention in one newsletter. People like John Schaeche, Vince Patulny Alwyn Carson, Maureen Keogh, Athalie Read John Collet, Jim Humphries, Ron Merritt, Carol Wise, Nancye Somlyay, Heather McCullough, Jim Humphries, Ross Jones, Alan Wheeley, Donna & Mick Soldo, Robert Langlands, Heather Millar, Ros McDonald, Terry Davies, Bill Miller, Lynne O'Brien, Elaine Wilson, Vic Jones, Wayne Flaherty, Joanne Jones, Sandra Fenwick, Simon Miels, Rod Drayton, Tim Skinner, Trevor Hancock, Willie Tyhouse....Just to name a few...(Phew!!)

LIFE MEMBER - ROSS JONES

Ross Jones has taken the word "volunteer" to another level & has been struggling with his health of late. Ross has had a number of stroke related setbacks and has been in hospital at Woden since before Xmas. Ross is still his usual bright and chirpy self but has mobility problems.

As it appears that Ross will probably need continued care he has decided to sell his house in Kambah and move to the Woy Woy on the central coast and live with his brother.

Ross has been a tireless worker for the club and district golf for many years, his contribution in dollars terms would run into many thousands and when he does make the move north he will be greatly missed. Hopefully we will have an opportunity to farewell him before he goes.

Ron Shepherd President

