



Murrumbidgee Country Club

MEMBERS'

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

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

From the Boardroom

We are very aware that to survive not only the current economic downturn, but the increasingly competitive golfing industry we are in, Murrumbidgee must look at ways we can diversify our operations while maintaining the value and privileges to our members.

You may well have heard talk of our recent discussions with the Vikings Group, who also operate Capital Golf Club. The current board believes Vikings have done an exceptional job of maintaining the benefits to Capital members while stimulating its growth and profitability by its association with the Vikings group. We, much like Vikings, regard ourselves as a valuable asset to the Tuggeranong community.

We recently presented an idea to The Vikings group that Murrumbidgee, Capital, and the Vikings group may all gain from a synergy arrangement.

The discussions were informal, and the Vikings board has advised me that at this time they do not intend to progress further. They have however indicated they will keep an open mind in the 2009-2010 financial year.

This presents a possible future direction our board is keen to explore when and if the opportunity presents itself again.

The recent rains have obviously put our planned excavation of the main dam on hold, which is a welcome downside. Now with around 30 megalitres in storage and hopefully, more rain on the way, it's remarkable how quickly the fairways have recovered. However we must not cease our long term planning of

couchplanting, irrigation improvement, and increased water storage capacity.

We are at present preparing a submission to the ACT government for assistance in joining with a number of significant storm water catchment projects that are being developed in the Tuggeranong Valley. One such project is the joining & deepening of the ponds on the northern (Kambah pool road) side of the 2nd fairway to capture the runoff from the hill and then link to the gully behind the main dam, which we plan to excavate.

The Bush Telegraph.

There have been some rumors floating around the golfers of Canberra about Murrumbidgee and I urge members to loudly refute any idle chat you may overhear. Like most other golf clubs Murrumbidgee is experiencing the negative effects of the current economic times, however we have re-structured our budgets to cut expenditure wherever possible, while maintaining the standards our members expect.

This is a commonsense business strategy in these times and I put notice to all that any damaging rumor mongering will not be tolerated.



Murrumbidgee Country Club

Volunteers.

Last month I mentioned a number of our loyal volunteers, and I never cease to be amazed by the energy these men & women donate almost daily to our club.

Alwyn Carlson's Army of merry men & women have toiled tirelessly since Murrumbidgee was born and I'm sure if we tallied their total hours spent on course maintenance it would account for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of labor.

2 of these unsung heroes are *Jim Colless* and *Max Leithfield*. *Steven Shugg*, who is a non member has also donated countless hours.

Last Friday on behalf of our members we presented Ross Jones with a small tribute to the remarkable contribution he has made to ACT golf, and in particular Murrumbidgee. Ross was a foundation member in 1988 and managed our first winning B grade pennant team in 1994.

Ross is leaving Canberra and will be missed by all of us.

TOILET DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Our recent application to government for grant assistance was not approved, so we are going ahead with the first project with help from a number of generous pledges from members.

We need donations of building materials, skilled labor, and trades people to assist in the design & construction of the long awaited 'loo' to be located between the 15th tee and the 7th green.

Anyone interested in helping or donating, please contact Alan Strachan who has assumed the role of Project co-coordinator

Vandalism.

During the recent school holidays irreparable damage was done to 2 of the course vehicles, by persons unknown. I urge members and local residents to report any trespassers or noise, especially after daylight hours.

As if Mark and his staff haven't got enough on their plate without these thugs making it harder.

Anyone with information which may assist us identify the culprits, or anyone noticing any suspicious activity, please contact myself on 0418623113, or Alan Strachan on 0402274737.

Club Professional

It is with regret that I would also like to advise members that our club professional David Montifiore has tendered his resignation. Monty has been a fantastic addition to our club and he will be sadly missed. Monty is leaving to pursue business and personal commitments in Sydney and expects to finish up towards the end of June. The Board have not made a decision on any replacement and are currently looking at a number of options.

Social Calendar

Here are some upcoming events for all you social butterflies:

Karaoke

Next friday **May 8** featuring Grant Shepherd . This is always a highly entertaining evening, so bring your friends & family for a night of guaranteed fun.

Fish & Chip night

Thursday May 21. Book early as this is very popular, with a superb seafood menu at very reasonable prices

Saturday Night Live

Saturday May 16. Featuring live music for the whole family by the talented local band "FALSE IMPRESSIONS"

Admission is free and the restaurant will be open.

Friday Night Disco

May 26.. Our ever popular Disco night with music by "ANGEL"...plus our usual Trivia, Badge draws, and meat tray raffles.

Enjoy your golf and our Club.

Ron Shepherd President



