



# Murrumbidgee Country Club

## NEWSLETTER

June 2009

To receive your regular  
Newsletter by email, contact:

The Management office  
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### Water...More, or Less.

We are currently preparing detailed costings and specifications for 2 exciting projects each of which will help Murrumbidgee overcome the one factor that has held our course to ransom over past years.

#### Lack of Water

#### Couch

The Green & Grounds committee and Mark, our course Super, have nearly completed their final recommendations to the Board to replant our fairways with couch. This work has taken more than 3 years, and has involved a close scrutiny of other ACT golf courses who have undertaken couch planting, and careful evaluation of tests we have carried out on our own soil conditions with various varieties.

Couching will deliver a top quality, more drought tolerant (lower water demand) golf course with consequent lower cost upkeep. The couching operation will temporarily affect our fairways and therefore our golf, but it will be carefully planned to minimize disruption.

We are preparing a submission for ACT Government dollar for dollar grant assistance and are optimistic of the outcome.

#### Murrumbidgee pipeline.

MCC has a water extraction license allowing it to utilize a maximum of 192 Megalitres of non potable water per year. Contributing to the 192 ML are the rain water we capture in our dams, any bore water we pump, and any other new captured water. Re the latter, members may be aware of the Club (through its Works And Development Group) investigating

the possibility of pumping water from the Murrumbidgee River to our course. ACT Government agencies seem sympathetic to our needs, which encourage us.

Within a year or two it is likely that those without active water extraction rights will be unable to acquire them, so MCC must consolidate ASAP any water opportunity available to it.

So far a River water extraction point and a likely pipeline route have been determined. From preliminary contacts made, we are confident of agreement from leaseholders to allow our pipeline to cross their lands.

Also, there exists a 40 plus years old pipeline from the River to near MCC which we are investigating for possible re-use (There used to be a dairy near the Lions Youth Haven in Kambah Pool Rd). The likelihood of such an old pipeline being serviceable is low, but tests over the next week or so will determine its location and condition.

We are seeking ACT Government dollar for dollar grant assistance for this project and are optimistic of the outcome. Details of cost & timing will be included in MCC's next Newsletter.

The couch programme and the River pipeline are top priority, important to the continued growth & prosperity of MCC.

#### Vice President.

Following the resignation of Alan Strachan, the board has appointed Glenda Sullivan as Vice President. Thanks go to Alan for his enormous contribution to our club, and we welcome Glenda who has already commenced work on a number of projects we will update you on.

## The Bore Storey.....

There have been many comments from members over the last few years regarding the lack of action around the bore that we use above the 15<sup>th</sup> green. Let me state first that every member of all boards since the club opened for trading have had a desire to see water gushing from the ground to provide an endless supply of irrigation water for the club. Some history may be of help to members. In the late 80's / early 90's a water drilling contractor was engaged to examine the possibility of utilising bore water on our lease. Three sites were chosen as high probability sites – 1 near the 13<sup>th</sup> tee, 1 to the right of the 3<sup>rd</sup> fairway and 1 above the dam behind the 15<sup>th</sup> green. The first two proved fruitless but the 15<sup>th</sup> dam option looked good. A bore was duly sunk and operated for a short period of time. Under Peter Foodey's directorship in the late 90's this bore was rehabilitated after a report from a local hydrologist indicated the pump type being used was incorrect. The report indicated a likely draw rate in the order of 12 litres/second. This in fact did occur for some years but a number of heavy drought years caused the bore to deplete to the point of not being usable. It is on this point that many people are misinformed on the nature of ground water in this region. Many people are familiar with the water table scenario in coastal regions of Australia and vast tracts of inland Australia. We are not so lucky in this region. Ground water is held in lens like pockets called aquifers. The secret to a usable bore here is to tap directly through as many aquifers as possible. Unfortunately, these aquifers become depleted over time and in the absence of rain become unusable due to the low volume and the salinity of water that can be recovered. For example, the very useful bore at the Federal Golf Club has declined from an output of 900k/l in the early 90's to less than 200k/l today. At these low volumes it is true that the cost of power to operate the pump is more costly than the water retrieved.

**Ross Lee.**



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*We welcome Scott Lennox, our new Professional to Murrumbidgee*

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Scott, his Wife Yoon Jung and Children Champbe 9 and Chels 7, are looking forward to their new home in Canberra, and to meeting Our members.

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Scott completed his traineeship at Castle Cove Country Club Sydney 1993. Following his passion for teaching and playing Scott lived and worked in South Korea for 7 years and in Hong Kong & China for 2 years. Upon returning to Australia Scott was appointed Head golf professional at Wagga City Golf Club. Scott brings a wealth of knowledge to our club. He has an Australian Coaching Council and Australian Professional Golfers Association **AAA Coaching Certificate**. Scott's enthusiastic manner and dedication to the game of golf will be a definite benefit to Murrumbidgee Country Club.

## Don't Forget.....

Annual subscriptions are now due for 2009/2010, so please renew your memberships without delay. We'll extend the June 30 deadline for discounts for 2 weeks to assist those who have forgotten.

**Finally.....** Thanks to our many volunteers who helped with the cleanup of the front entrance last Sunday. Over 30 turned up and put in a very rewarding afternoon's work, then enjoyed Nancye's BBQ afterward.

**Ron Shepherd.**

*Murrumbidgee Country Club*