



Murrumbidgee Country Club

August 2009

NEWSLETTER

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

Thanks to our Volunteers.

The First volunteers day on July 5th was an enormous success with over 40 participants. The front entrance gardens and surrounds now look magnificent, and the repairs to parts of the front fence and drains were well overdue. All volunteers Enjoyed a well deserved wind down BBQ afterwards. Well done and thank you to all who helped.

Murrumbidgee pipeline.

The Club, through its WDG, has investigated the feasibility of drawing water from the Murrumbidgee River and found it possible and affordable. The Board has approved the project.

We expect final Government approval to follow submission of a Development Application to the ACT Planning Authority.

ACT Govt financial assistance is being sought through 50-50 grants available from the Dept of Sport & Recreation. I am hopeful of approval. Written formal Agreements with adjacent landowners for construction and future maintenance access are being pursued and we are optimistic of success. When we have these agreements, the ACT Govt Water Resources Manager will vary our water abstraction license to allow withdrawal of water from the River.

The project will incorporate a River pump and trenched pipe work to our 5th hole dam, plus a second transfer pump and pipe work for transferring water from the 5th hole dam to our main dam. The system will be used only when reserves are low.

When operational we can anticipate a golf course that will be fully grassed and green throughout the whole year, irrespective of low rainfall.

Couch Programme

The Board has approved the Green & Grounds committee recommendations to replant our fairways with couch. Following a 4 year test programme carried out on our own soil conditions with various varieties, we intend to proceed with the line planting of all 18 holes in one operation in the 2010-2011 growing season, subject to seasonal timing and our economic ability to sustain the transition period. The result will be a far more drought tolerant golf course with more cost efficient upkeep. The reduction in water consumption will be considerable and industry experts agree that Murrumbidgee is perfectly suited to couch. The old saying "no pain...no gain" will certainly apply and we must prepare for a short, but complete closure of the course and many months thereafter, of trying playing conditions. The quality of the fairways so planted would be at best average until the end of 2011, so the course would be playable under preferred lie rules. Given that we have had to operate under these conditions for much of the last 4 years I hope members will understand.

We are preparing a submission for grant assistance and are hopeful of a positive outcome.

Community meeting.

The Community meeting at the club on August 16th was very well attended and 'the Gleneagles community' was formed. Regular social events, community projects, craft groups, walking groups, Seniors, ladies and junior activities will result and grow. Each will use the club facilities and encourage increased patronage. Around 20 new members were signed up. The event was very successful and will lead to much improved support of MCC by local residents. I urge anyone who lives close to the club & didn't attend, to email me at ron@shepherd.net.au and I'll keep you informed with progress.

Adopt-a-tee

Murrumbidgee members, local residents, and Tuggeranong businesses are invited to join our new **Adopt a tee** programme by selecting your favorite tee box and maintaining its gardens and surrounds. Each sponsor will receive a permanent sign to recognise your contribution for years to come. This is a great 'Fun' way to demonstrate your pride in our Golf course. Please contact Warren in the office to register your interest and your preferred tee. (Hurry while stocks last)



A look to the future

Over the past year we cut back necessarily on spending, yet our staff rallied under pressure. Now, with good progress being made on our proposed pipeline and the planned couching of our fairways, I believe a positive long & short term future is possible, for Murrumbidgee. It's been a long time coming, but Local Government is finally recognizing MCC as a valuable Tuggeranong community asset. Our members have for 20 years sustained our golf course with little assistance. We are confident our work towards drought proofing Murrumbidgee will attract both financial and political support & I urge our members, to maintain loyalty and support as Murrumbidgee progresses through the next phase of its development.

Daily, over the past 3 years on the MCC board & 2 years as President, I've seen examples of passionate members, staff, sponsors and volunteers who contribute above & beyond to the survival and growth of our club.

Announcement.

Regretfully, due to business and family commitments I am unable to nominate for a position on the incoming board, however, I will, with their approval, continue working on the projects currently in progress, as well as individual tasks as time permits.

The last 3 years on the board and 2 as President, have been a rewarding challenge, and I am indebted to Murrumbidgee and its members for your support.

Ron Shepherd
President

