

NELSON BAY GOLF CLUB NEWSLETTER 24th FEBRURARY 2017

Dear Member

Clubhouse Re-build

It goes without saying that there were a number of challenges during February because of the extremely high temperatures. However despite that and some issues with tying the new roof into the old structure and the front entrance work on the project continues to progress well.

The Builders have advised us that work will be carried out on Saturdays commencing from 4th March 2017.

This means that car parking will be restricted to how it currently applies from Monday –Friday. Your co-operation in abiding by the parking rules is essential. We have had too many instances where cars have been incorrectly parked and if this continues there is the distinct possibility of the Builder asking us to completely close the car park.

Some matters of interest:

- * The blockwork that can be seen includes an Auditorium Store Room, Lift Well and walls for the Kitchen/Admin / Bar areas.
- *70% of the roof has been installed
- *Window framing installation has commenced

Construction is still estimated to be completed by June 2017.

Golfing News

Men's A. Grade Pennant Season

The 1st round scheduled for Feb 12 was postponed because of the extremely hot weather.

Last week the team went down 7/1 to the very strong Waratah side. Will Semmens starred with a 4/3 win over his opponent whose handicap was +2.

Team Captain Peter Gibson reports all players performed well and no-one

was disgraced, particularly considering that almost all of the Waratah team played off scratch compared to the 40 which our team handicaps total.

The next game is against Charlestown at Tanilba Bay on Sun 26th Feb

Men's Super-Senior Pennants Team

The team has finished 2nd in their Division , losing only one game to the very strong Tuncurry side, and now move to the knock-out stage of this competition.

Their next match will be played on Mon.6 March, with the opponent and venue still to be decided.

Best of luck to the team as they attempt to progress through to the next stage.

Ladies Weekend Pennants

Last weekend saw our 2 teams, The Nemos and The Dolphins go head to head at Merewether with The Dolphins taking the honours 2.5 to 1.5 in a tight match.

Despite the loss The Nemos hold a slender lead in the competition with 3 weeks remaining.

Ladies Weekday Pennants

Our teams are deep in practice as they prepare for their upcoming games, as follows:

Div. 2	13 March v Pacific Dunes	(at Merewether)
	20 March v Belmont	(at Pacific Dunes)

Div.4	13 March v Newcastle	(at Charlestown)
	27 March v Pacific Dunes	(at Maitland)

Best of luck to the players representing the Club in this competition.

Twilight Golf

50 players enjoyed the Twilight event on 16 February which featured specially installed 8 inch holes (twice the normal size). How many 3 putts?

The next event is on Thursday 2nd March with a hit-off time of 5.15pm. This will be an Ambrose event played over 6 holes (1st time ever?) It is the perfect opportunity to introduce friends and neighbours to this shortened and social format.

Australian Police Championships

We are very proud to be hosting a round of this event on Thursday 9th March and as you know we like to go the extra yard to present a "point of difference" to our visitors.

We will be doing this by providing spotters, car park attendants and guides.

The event will have 2 shotgun starts, one at 7.00am and the other at 12.30pm, with volunteers asked to work shifts of approx. 2.5 hours each. We need 32 volunteers.

If you can help please contact Dave Flatt urgently on 0410 419 967

Tomaree Breast Cancer Support Group Golf Day

Entries are well and truly open for this "In the Pink" golf day to be held on Thur 21st March, with lunch at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club. All details are on our website.

Course Matters

Preferred Lies

These were introduced from Friday 24th February but will only apply to the fairway that you are playing (or supposed to be playing)

Greens

These continue to be under a great deal of disease pressure because of the extreme climatic conditions. Spraying and hand weeding programs have been implemented to remove Queensland blue couch, carpet grass and Mullumbimby couch.

5th Green

This green has unfortunately suffered from a serious amount of heat / drought stress and an extremely high count of sting nematodes that has severely compromised the root system

The pictures below show the healthy root system in May 2016 and the poor current root system highlighting the damage this pest does to the plant.



The large damaged patch in the middle of the green has been patched and other areas have been plugged and the green taken out of play to speed up its recovery.

20th Tee

It is planned to rebuild the 20th tee towards the end of March with the aim of improving the playability of the hole and to provide a level teeing area.

Assistant Course Superintendent

Green Staff Member Andrew Dolesko has been promoted to Assistant Course Superintendent to replace Duncan Begley who has moved to Horizons Golf Club as Course Superintendent.

Andrew is a qualified Greenkeeper and immediately prior to joining here was responsible for overseeing the preparation and maintenance of Palm Beach and Castle Cove Golf Clubs in Sydney.

Course Staff

All staff are performing extremely well in very trying conditions and deserve credit for their attitude to work and to the Club in general.

Administration Staff

We welcome Monica Gilbert who commenced as the Admin Assistant on Monday 16th January. Monica has a background in Hospitality, Reception and Retail & Accounts Management.

Marine Rescue NSW Medal of Valour

Our Golf Club and local community is extremely fortunate to have within it many people who I call "our quiet achievers"

One of our members, and you may have read about this in the local press, is Laurie Nolan who was recently honoured for his outstanding

courage in saving the lives of two of his Marine Rescue NSW crew mates during a rescue operation in fatal conditions last January.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens member Mr Laurie Nolan, who is a member of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, is the first recipient of the prestigious Marine Rescue NSW Medal for Valour, the organisation's highest award for bravery in the line of duty.

Mr Nolan was today among 21 rescue crew members and communications operators from the Port Stephens unit to receive awards recognising their bravery and skill in a series of emergency operations on January 6 and 7, 2016.

Presenting the awards, Commissioner Stacey Tannos congratulated the 21 volunteers, applauding their commitment to saving lives on the water, no matter the appalling conditions.

Five Mayday calls were broadcast as an East Coast Low battered the NSW coastline on January 6 and 7, with crews of rescue vessel Port Stephens 40, the unit's communications operators and the Nelson Bay Police Marine Area Command responding to the emergencies throughout the day and night.

A number of yachts travelling through the area were caught in the maelstrom, with the wild conditions claiming the life of sailor Mal Lennon, washed overboard from Amante off Broughton Island as the vessel returned south from the Pittwater to Coffs Harbour race.

Laurie was one of seven crew members on board Port Stephens 40 when it endured a triple knockdown after midnight during the extended operation to rescue the yacht M3, being blown north up the coastline with no power or sails in 50 knot winds and 5-6 metre seas.

He without hesitation bravely assisted two of his fellow crew members who were injured during the rescue attempt.

Other Club members who received awards for courage were Michael Smith and Nigel Waters. Congratulations and thank you to these gentlemen.

Vale Joan Holmes

Our sympathy and thoughts go to the family of Lady Co-Patron Joan Holmes who passed away recently.

That is all for now. Hope to see you on the course and in the clubhouse.

Max Pride President











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