

January 2018 Newsletter

Dear Members and Guests,

Happy New Year to all and welcome to all our visitors, at this time of year we are especially busy, on the Golf Course and in the new Clubhouse which is great to see. We are now in our sixth month of trading and enjoying a brisk trade.

Course

As previously advised we have had little or no rain for some months and have been relying on our Bore Water System to top up the irrigation dam. This has placed a strain on the 12th Bore pump and it has failed after 10 years of service and will be replaced within the next week.

To remove the pump, we have to hire a large crane as the pump and discharge pipework are approximately 30 meters long, whilst we had the crane on site we arranged to remove the Bore pump adjacent the 7th tee as it has not been in operation for about 5 years; this will also be replaced.

Irrigation is a priority for The Board and greens staff and over the years we have implemented several measures to ensure that the Course is irrigated satisfactorily. In this instance we will rebuild one of the failed pumps or purchase another new pump so that we always have a pump on standby for immediate replacement.

Bluewater Grill Bookings

With an influx of new members and visitors, Bluewater Grill has been booked out most nights for the past three months. To avoid disappointment members are reminded to book early if you are planning a special occasion or book early in the week for a weekend booking.

Bookings can also be made online through the club's website

www.nelsonbaygolf.com.au or Bluewater Grill's website www.bluewatergrill.net.au

Golf

All members, including Social members and visitors, are invited to play in the **9 HOLE TWILIGHT COMPETITIONS** being held on alternate Thursdays in February and March. **Hit off is at 4.00 pm** in a "shotgun" start. Entry fees are: **Golfing Members: \$10, Social Members: \$16, Visitors: \$20**. The formats for these events are:

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY: BIG AS A BUCKET. (Holes double the size of normal golf holes)

THURSDAY 1ST MARCH: TENNIS RULES. (One "second serve" per hole)

THURSDAY 15 MARCH: 4 PERSON AMBROSE

THURSDAY 29 MARCH: CROSS COUNTRY (A special course mapped out through the trees). Players will be encouraged to stay for dinner after this final event for the Twilight season.

Timesheets open 14 days prior to each event. Entry online, through the kiosks or through the Pro shop. We really hope some of our Social members take this opportunity to play golf in a fun atmosphere. Golf Handicap is not required.

INFORMATION FOR PLAYING MEMBERS

We have some changes to course markings:

1. **OUT OF BOUNDS BEHIND THE 18TH GREEN** has now been determined as the curb on the cart path below the pro shop. Suitable markings have been made on the curb.
2. **The GARDEN IN THE POND BETWEEN THE 18TH AND 9TH GREENS IS NOW IN THE HAZARD** (Previously this garden had been compulsory GUR). The **HAZARD LINE** around the pond will be altered in coming weeks so it will be marked on the edge of the concrete path. This is to provide clearer definition.
3. Some time ago a mat was installed in the **DROP ZONE** between the pond and the half-way house. This drop zone is **OPTIONAL** when taking a penalty drop from the hazard or a free drop from the path. Please note that **a ball is in the hazard if any part of the ball touches the line of hazard**, or a vertical extension above it. (See page 44 of the Rule book). Players should also take care when dropping the ball in the drop zone. Under the rules of golf, **the ball is in play** if it strikes the ground inside the drop zone **but then rolls out of it** less than a distance of two club lengths. (See page 153 of the Rule book).
4. With Ladies and Men now able to play on all days, it has been necessary for the Match Committee to come up with procedures for fields with smaller numbers:
 - a. A “**Voucher competition**” will only be held when there are **16 players or more**.
 - b. For less than 16 players there will be a Ball competition. The number of balls will be determined by the number of entrants. The distribution of balls to be determined by the Match Desk personnel on that day. Balls won will be allocated to players’ accounts by the Pro shop.
 - c. All scores will be sent to Golfink.
 - d. On Men’s Monthly Medal days on Saturdays, ladies will only be offered a competition on Course 2.

PACE OF PLAY

We have enjoyed huge fields in recent weeks, with some Wednesday fields being in excess of 260 players. This inevitably causes problems for the pace of play. We are having volunteer Marshals on the busier days, but members are expected to do their best in keeping to a satisfactory pace of play. The following **TIPS TO SPEED UP**

PLAY are included in our Fixture Book:

1. Walk quickly from the green to the next tee.

2. DO NOT MARK YOUR CARDS AT THE GREEN YOU HAVE JUST FINISHED. Go straight to the next tee and mark your cards after you have teed off.
3. As soon as it is safe to do so, move forward to your ball, check the distance and select your club. This can often be done before your fellow competitor has played his/her shot.
4. If you are still falling behind, the first two players to putt out can leave the green immediately and hit off while the remaining two players complete the hole.

The R & A's PACE OF PLAY MANUAL provides some valuable tips for improving the pace of play. See the link below. We hope our members can take all this information on board to tackle this age-old problem that seems to afflict all golf clubs.

<https://www.randa.org/RulesEquipment/Pace-of-Play/Manual>

We frequently receive posters and emails about different events around the country. Two that have recently arrived are:

1. Golf NSW Calendar of events, including the NSW Sand Greens Four Ball Championships, 17/18 March, Cobar NSW

<http://www.golfnsw.org/golfbox#/customer/1012/schedule/2017>

2. Alice Springs Masters Games, 13 – 20 October

www.alicespringsmastersgames.com.au

3. Of course, we are hosting the Australian Veterans Golf Championships from 12 – 16 November.

www.gogolfing.net.au/vets-2018

House Matters

A day bed has been purchased and if required is located in the utility room next to the ladies locker room.

The Club has two Defibrillators located at Reception and the Greens Sheds if required. These two locations cover the main two areas of the golf course and are available when the course or clubhouse are open. Staff are trained if they are required.

Canadian Club & Dry is now available by the glass.

The complete range of Brygon Wines are now available from the main and function bars. The Reserve & Bruce range are proving very popular.

Car Parking

Additional car parks are available at the bottom of the practice fairway to cater for the extremely busy golf days. Entry is via the Dowling Street cart shed gates and is surrounded with orange netting.

While this area is in use as a car park the practice fairway is restricted to no more than a 7 iron.

Club & Buggy Storage

As previously advised a secure dedicated area under the main clubhouse is now available for members to store their golf bags and hand golf buggies. The fee from January – June 2018 is \$50 with a renewal payable with your annual subscription. Please contact reception if you would like to secure a space.

Wedding Expo

We are hosting our very first Wedding Expo tomorrow from 10am – 2pm. There will be 20 exhibitors, ceremony site dressed, entertainment and more! We are very excited to show off what the Club can do which will hopefully result in more weddings and functions at the Club. Exhibitors have been asked to park next door to alleviate car park stress. There will be a number of people attending the event so please be patient and if possible car pool or have a lift to golf organised.

I look forward to seeing you on the course or in the clubhouse.

Peter Power
President