



April Newsletter

From the President - Jennie Hehir

As I write, the weather is divine and perfect for playing golf and bowls in Tocumwal.

Our golf courses and bowling greens are in mint condition, in spite of it being a difficult year due to disease caused by significant rain and humidity. Ben has been challenged with course staff absent with COVID as have our house Managers. The staff that have been left to carry the load have gone the extra mile to ensure necessary jobs are done. Their effort contributed to the Gig on the Green was

outstanding!!!! I thank our conscientious staff and passionate members who volunteer.

It has been such a pleasure chatting to many visitors who tell us we have a wonderful facility here.

Our Vice President Bernard Clements had a dreadful accident on the third of March and sustained some nasty injuries. He is now convalescing in Geelong and we hope he will be back in Tocumwal in the not too distant future. On a sad note, Board member and Bowls Captain Dave Hansen, with his wife Leigh, have decided to move to sunny QLD. Dave's contribution with Leigh's support for the TGBC has been of huge significance. They will be sorely missed. On behalf of the Board and Members I wish them well for their new life up north. We look forward to their regular visits back to Tocumwal.

The Board is very comfortable with our financial position at this point in time. State and Federal government grant applications have been submitted and we are hopeful our facility will be recognised as a high priority in the region for upgrades. We are almost at the point of ordering new furniture for the clubhouse. Due to COVID there will be at least three months wait on their supply.

We are so pleased with the result of the two new concrete golf paths and are developing a program to continue the progression of installing more.

In closing I thank everyone involved with our club for their understanding of staff shortages due to COVID and their support and contribution to the TGBC.

Happy Golfing and Bowling.



CEO Report -

Paul Gemmill

It's hard to believe that we are now planning our Easter holidays and stocking up on Easter eggs as the last 3 months have flown by, and what a busy hive of activity we have had at our Club.

It has been wonderful to see so many members and guests enjoying our facilities and hospitality since the new year with our courses and greens in tremendous condition and our sometimes-undermanned staff conscientiously working away to make your stay a better one.

However, we have had a couple of dark clouds over our Club recently with some uncharacteristic incidents of angry remarks toward staff or undermining and unfounded comments about staff.

As the CEO of our wonderful Club, I am responsible for the health, welfare and safety of all our staff so to the very small few who have darkened our skies recently please treat our staff with the respect they deserve.

To our wonderful staff and volunteers, I say thank you and well done. We are all aware of the growing new pandemic that is staff shortages and close contact isolation, but our staff have pushed through sometimes under enormous pressure to get the job done and serve you.

And lastly, to the overwhelming majority of Members I say thank you from all of us for your support, respect and encouragement.

Yours in Golf & Bowls

From the Pro Shop - Marty Walsh

The last three months here at the Club have exceeded all past player record numbers. It is great to see so many golfers, whether they are Members or visitors, enjoying our courses and facilities.

In March alone we had over 6708 players on the course.

During the first week of the school holidays, we are again honoured to be hosting the 2022 Golf Australia Girls Development Golf Camp.

If last year was anything to go by, this will be an amazing week for the girls and we are lucky to be working with Golf Australia in bringing here to Tocumwal.

Looking forward, our next big event is the Easter Tournament (April 15-18), which is always extremely popular. Entries have again been strong and we can't wait to have four days of good weather and great golf.

Another one to put into your diary is the rescheduled GAS Mixed Foursomes Championships on Saturday, April 30th.

We again thank Greg Harmes from GAS for sponsoring this annual event and it is sure to be an excellent field.

Following Easter is our PGA Associates Week, including our Sponsors Day/Pro Am.

This is always a thrill for the Club to host these up-and-coming golfing professionals.

A final reminder to all of our Members that it is important for you to book your golf prior to coming to the Club. The last thing we want is for our Members to miss out on a round of golf because the course is too busy.

The Super's Summary - Ben Lucas

Reflecting over the past 3 months reminds me of what times were like pre covid. The 2022 summer is the most the course has been utilised by golfers in over 2 years now which is great to see.

It has made movements around the course more difficult for staff to complete jobs so plenty of early morning starts has been the norm to beat the golfing rush.

Summer has been quite mild for turf maintenance this year which can be

attributed to lower overall temperatures and an increase in rainfall and humidity. When these are all combined it has meant that there has always been plenty of mowing to catch up on.

As we near the end of the peak growing season I would like to acknowledge all the course volunteers for their assistance over the past season.

- Mower operators led by Lindsay Bright and Lou Richards with the assistance of Lionel Thurtell, Bruce McCallum, Steve Bell, Lyndon Bailey, Ray Hehir, Mark O'Brien, Terry Mullins, Peter Carson and Nev Finn
- Trees and Course Gardens led by Doug Perrett and Ian Patterson with the assistance Alan Leggate.
- The Pro shop and Clubhouse Garden team of Dave and Noelene Duncomb, Jennie Hehir, Sue Pappas, Gayle and Tom Edwards, Gayle Blakey and Marg and Dick Varley
- Herbicide applicator Peter Stokes
- Rubbish collector Billy Greig.

The amount of work that this group has put in over the COVID period has not gone unnoticed and I give many thanks for your help over this period. If I have missed anyone my sincere apologies.

Upcoming works in April include:

- **Grooming Greens:** Grooming is the vertical cutting of cool season turf specifically bent grass on our greens. The purpose is to remove a very slight layer of mat that has built up over the summer period. As it is cutting into the leaf tissue it is best not to perform this cultural practice over the warmer months as it can put the plant at risk of moisture stress and increases disease pressure.

- **Dusting Greens:** Frequent light dustings of sand act as a biological control to reduce thatch and increase microbial activity around the crown of the plant. This helps break down the mat layer and remove minute imperfections on the surface. The combinations of these practices will see the greens firm up and provide a true consistent ball roll leading into the winter period.
- **Bunker maintenance:** Herbicide applications, edging practices and the addition of sand over both courses.
- **Kikuyu management:** Kikuyu is an undesirable turf species on our facility, left untreated it can outcompete the couch grass and take over. Different types of herbicides are required with numerous applications to gain control. If you look close enough in the rough lines you can see where previous applications have pushed the “kik” away from our fine cut areas. New plants have emerged in the past 18 months and that is what will be targeted during the autumn. Timing is the most critical part of the process as applying chemical during the peak growing season requires too many applications and it can be costly. Applications made during autumn are most effective as this is when the plant is loading up on nutrients as it begins to shut down for dormancy, a side effect of this is that the plant will also translocate any active ingredients in the herbicide as well.

Boom spraying of the kikuyu has taken place on the presidents back 9 fairways and all the presidents surrounds. This is to highlight the kikuyu for the next stage of more precise applications. You may notice light blue spots on the fairways from these secondary treatments. Please try and avoid walking over these treated areas and then directly onto the greens especially in the dew as there is potential for tracking onto susceptible species (the greens).

Bowls News - Dave Hansen

This important Tocumwal Bowls Club event is scheduled for Monday May 9th 2022 and will be held in the Fairway Room commencing at 5:00pm.

I would like to believe that as many of our fellow bowlers will be in attendance for the evening and enjoy a meal at the close of the night to culminate the season's closing.

EASTER TOURNAMENT

Bob Bowman has put in a power of work to fill our Easter Tournament with numbers, but still requires a couple of further entries.

Please support this terrific event and Bob and enter your names with him as soon as possible. Easter is a Four Day Easter Tournament an event that should not be missed.

You can select any day to play or all days if you wish, but there are still a number of Club Members considering playing. Please ring Bob on 0418 313 918.

Easter is a medley event comprising of Mens & Ladies Pairs Medley on Day 1, followed by 2 Bowl Mixed Open Triples on Saturday, Sunday brings an Open Pairs Medley (any combination) with the tournament culminating on Easter Monday with Open Fours (any combination).

NEW JACKS

Our Bowls Club has received a donation to purchase 20 new Heavy Yellow jacks that are to be now used exclusively for Pennant matches only.

Our white jacks can be used for any other tournaments including Barefoot Bowls etc.

BOARD EVENTS

B GRADE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Men's & Ladies B Grade Club Championships have now been finalised with matches completed on Monday 21st March 2022.

The Ladies Final was played between Trish Small and Mary Gierveld with Trish winning in a tight match. In the Men's match, Dave Hansen edged out Chris O'Connell to win.

A hearty congratulations to our Match Committee members for staging all Board events and have them running like clockwork.



B Grade Club Champions Dave Hansen and Trish Small

Ros' Golf Captain Report

Hello to all Members, as this is my first note to the Club Newsletter I would like to

introduce myself. I have been in the Captains position since December and I would like to thank you for all of the support and good wishes. As you all know this is not an easy position to take on but I hope I can do justice to the role.

We have had three main events for this year. First it was the Summer Tournament then came 2-Person Ambrose and recently the Yamaha Veterans Week. These events don't just happen there is a lot of work done to get these events up and running. Thank you to all of the people who put their hand up to help out. We had men out there at 4.30am getting carts ready for the day's use and many people doing registration and tee starts. I appreciate all of those people for their help. A big thank you to Marty and his Golf Operations staff for their help and guidance. They do a great job of organising all of our events.

Presentations will be phased in again and I have done the last two Saturdays which have been successful. Sunday Medal days were also done but numbers were well down. I will keep an eye on this matter and if it is worthwhile doing them we certainly will.

Once again thank you for the support given to me. If you have any problems please don't hesitate to come and see me or any member of the General Golf Committee, Jill Allen, Julie Penny, Sandra Williams, Carol Irvine, Phil Cheesewright and Darran Rowe and we will do everything we can to help. We do have one vacancy left on the Committee, and it would be great if someone put their hand up to fill this position on the committee

We Want Your Old Clubs!

We need your help!

Over the past year we are seeing much more participation in the game of golf for both young and old and we want to assist guests and prospective members to take up the game we all love.

To make this easier we need hire clubs, so we ask that if you have a dusty set in your shed or carport, we would love to have them donated to the Club so to better promote our game by hiring them out for FREE.

Who knows your old set might be the catalyst to an interested novice becoming a regular golfer?

Donate your set to the Pro shop anytime and thank you in advance.

Upcoming Events

HOP RIGHT ON OVER!

It's time for the Easter Raffle!

Get ready for an egg-citing afternoon of Easter Raffles here at the Tocumwal Golf & Bowls Club!

WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL 2022
TICKETS ON SALE FROM 5.30 PM
RAFFLE DRAW STARTS AT 7 PM

The winners of our 2022 Easter Colouring Competition will be announced along with a visit from the Easter Bunny!



EASTER BOWLS TOURNAMENT

FRI 15th APRIL - MON 18th APRIL 2022

SEPARATE EVENT EACH DAY

TOCUMWAL GOLF & BOWLS CLUB



 **TOCUMWAL**
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Easter Golf Tournament

15 - 18 APRIL 2022

