



## **Newsletter**

# **From the President - Jennie Hehir**

What a fabulous Christmas Present and windfall the TGBC has received in obtaining a grant from the NSW Coalition Government's Multi-Sport Community fund for \$3,547,000.00. The Club is required to match this funding, which we will be do in due course.

We have hit the ground running to cross-examine the initial plans that were submitted. Following several discussions and a meeting of the board 19 December 2022, we are comfortable with moving into the next phase of sourcing

quotes for this huge project.

After a challenging year of wet conditions, it's a credit to Ben, his crew and our band of volunteers who present our magnificent course and surroundings in such a tip top shape. Our crew of volunteers have reduced significantly over the last few years. It would be fabulous if any of you have some time to spare, could assist with gardening and picking up sticks and fallen branches on the course. Our current crew love being involved and enjoy seeing the results. We thank this dedicated group of members who whole-heartedly assist and show pride in our facility. Your efforts don't go unnoticed.

There has always been provision for the Club President, Bowls Captain and Golf Captain to accept an offer of \$1000 honorarium, like the rest of board, committee persons and volunteers, these roles are carried out in a total voluntary capacity.

I thank all of our various committee members and our board for their input into the running of the club. Paul Gemmill, our CEO who has had a challenging year, is to be commended and congratulated for his conscientious drive and passion for the Club.

Our dedicated staff who display great care and satisfaction in serving our members and guests are to be thanked for their dedication.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2023 bring you all great health and joy.



# **CEO Report - Paul Gemmill**

It certainly has been a big year for our Club with some incredible upgrades to our facilities and renovations coming soon. But these once-in-a-generation improvements come off the back of a very successful period for our Club.

The momentum, we as a Club, have achieved and the progress we have made means the state government has confidently committed financial assistance for us to not only grow but ensure our Club's future for our members and community.

We have achieved some impressive numbers for the calendar year including 50,344 rounds of golf and 11,568 carts hired (average 32 carts per day), this means our 69 carts on average are hired 167 times each per year.

In our catering department we have sold 25,000 coffees, 101,754 schooners of beer, 35,000 glasses of wine, 8,033 golf package breakfasts and sold 75,018 meals.

All of the above have been diligently serviced by our incredible staff, sometimes under pressure but always with a smile.

I thank our Club President Jennie Hehir and the Board of Directors for their tireless efforts and decision making that I am sure will hold our Club in good stead for our future and as well thank our management team and attentive staff.

Lastly, thank you to our volunteers, committees, pennant teams and all of our members that support our Club so graciously.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

## **From the Pro Shop - Marty Walsh**

The past 3 months has seen the golf season arrive, and it has been great to see the course full of golfers.

Looking back, we held our annual Golf Presentation Night & Gala Dinner, with a big congratulations going to all the winners that took a trophy home. I also wanted to pass on my thanks to everyone that attended the night, and we look forward to going bigger and better again next year.

Up next was Melbourne Cup Day, and despite the weather, some great golf was played. After golf, everyone settled into the clubhouse to watch the races in the afternoon.

The ladies held their annual Challenge Bowl after it had been postponed from earlier in the year. Numbers for the event were strong and I congratulate the winners.

Pennant golf, for both the Mid Murray and YSM are in full-swing, with both teams competing extremely well. It is always nice to see some new faces representing the Club, and showing the fighting Tocumwal spirit.



**Mid-Murray (left) & YSM right) team photos**

In the lead-up to Christmas, one of our more popular days was held, Christmas Cheer Day.

This is always a colourful day and it makes it fun seeing everyone getting dressed up.



We hosted three professional fitting days with major companies; Cobra, Callaway and TaylorMade. These days are an excellent way for our Members to not only have a swing with some brand new gear, but to get some advice on their game by trained professionals. Keep an eye out for the next group of fittings in the new year, with Callaway visiting on Wednesday, February 15.



Finally, we do have some of our major events approaching in the new year with entries open and out now.

The Summer Tournament, which is held on the weekend following Australia can be entered [here](#)

The 2023 Victorian 36-hole 2 Person Ambrose Championship will be held on the 4th & 5th of February and can be entered [here](#)

Our Veterans Tournament which is being held from the 20th-24th of March can be

entered [here](#)

All entries that are filled out online MUST be sent back to the pro shop at: [proshop@tocumwalgolf.com](mailto:proshop@tocumwalgolf.com).

# The Super's Summary - Ben Lucas

Course renovations have come and gone and while the weather on the day was less than ideal, the result has been a success.

Greens were scarified which was followed by topdressing and greens aeration with a 12mm solid tyne. The rain hindered the rubbing process throughout the morning but the wind in the afternoon dried things out nicely which allowed the sand to be incorporated into the aeration holes. Greens are monitored daily, and mowing practices will resume 7 days after the practices have been completed. An additional application of dusting sand will be applied during this process for smoothness along with rolling practices for firmness.

**Did you know?** There was approximately 90 cubic metres of topdressing sand used on the 36 holes and practice greens during the renovation practice.

Moving on to the fairways, the Presidents course fairways were scarified this year after records indicated the Captains were done last year (my information in the previous newsletter was incorrect). If anyone has been on the course, a massive amount of organic material has been removed from these fairways. Our contractors even said that they had to slow down by two gears due to how thick they were and how much material was being removed. This is due to them being missed during the Covid pandemic.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers that came for the working bee throughout that day. Although due to the wind I think as many branches were falling as what was getting picked up. I will endeavour to work with our Club Captain John Crilly in the new year to organise another working bee, stay tuned.

Finally, on behalf of all the green staff, I wish all members and guests a merry Christmas and a happy new year. For those who are travelling, stay safe and we will see you all on the course in 2023.



## Bowls News - Judy Tonini

Where on earth has this year gone? The last few years have been a bit of a blur, and still COVID is rearing its ugly head, interfering with our enjoyment of life, keeping friends apart and generally just being an annoyance. Looks like we're stuck with it for a good while yet! Sending best wishes for a speedy recovery to our Members who are still suffering and isolating.

Whoever would have thought that the weather would have figured so strongly in where and when our Pennant games could be played this year? Whilst most of us love playing on grass, this year has really shown that the grass greens can't cope with very heavy, consistent rainfalls. Hopefully La Nina has returned to South America or wherever she comes from, and gives us here in the Land Down Under, a bit of a breather, although the BOM has given a few notices that she may return to visit in February. I hope it's not a situation of us saying "Oh no – here we go again!"

Well done to all our Pennant teams. Win, lose or draw – it's a big commitment that is made to represent our Club, so please accept our appreciation. Also, the Duty Managers for the teams put in a lot of work, and, of course, our Selection



Committees, who probably put in the greatest amount of work. They are always watching our players, on social days, or during practice or Tournaments, and some of the time, probably feel they are not the most popular members of the Bowls Club. Such a vital job though, and at the end of the day, are just trying to make sure that the best players are put in the best teams. Please give a thought to putting your hand up to become a Selector for next year.

Time also to think about putting your hand up to be on next year's Match Committees. Men's & Women's! An absolutely vital part of any Club. Donna – you've been amazing! Thank you.

Trish – what a fantastic support you have been to me, and the Club this year – particularly with my unintentional absences. Thank you so much. We couldn't have done it without you.

Barefoot Bowls has been a success again this year, under the able guidance of 'Bowling Bobby Bowman'. It's great to see how many people roll up each Monday night, and it's really pleasing to see that some of the Monday night bowlers have now joined the Club as Introductory Members.

The Alan Seamer Tournament was another success story this year, and our thanks go to Alan for his support. We have players from all over the place, and it's a terrific fun day for all. The Open Medley Fours Tournament will be on next year on Sunday, 12th March, so we can look forward to another terrific day. Entry forms are at the front desk in the Clubhouse.

As you all know, we had our first Ladies two-day event – the 'Queens of the Green', which was a roaring success. The Club, and all staff, did us proud – along with those that put the whole thing together. 2023 looks like being an even greater success – especially with our new greens! Let's start working on a special two day event for the men next year?

What a massive year 2023 is going to be. With the Club's success in securing a Funding Grant, Club CEO Paul Gemmill has been working hard to get us some new greens, and thankfully, the Board have agreed to an allocation for this to happen, and when it does – we are all hopeful we can bring Chris Philpot's dream to life – of holding major tournaments here, attracting all the main-game players.. How fabulously exciting if/when this comes to fruition?

Thanks, Chris for your endless coaching, cheering us on – and sharing your dreams with us. Well done on your CanAssist Charity Day too!

To all our fabulous people who have stepped up to the plate whilst I've been

AWOL, i.e. Trish, Phil Hodge, Donna, Ron and all his Greens people, Col and Kath – for your ‘special duty’ on the greens, Cheryl Mears, Bobby, Helen, Leigh,

Patsy – thank you all so much for your support and assistance. Let’s be mindful that everything we do is done on a voluntary basis – all for the good of our Club.

Time to wish you all a very happy Christmas, and may 2023 be everything you want it to be. My New Year’s goal is to become a better bowler!! What’s yours.....?

# From the Captain - John Crilly

As we near the end of another year I would like to thank everyone for their support in my short time as captain.

We had another great Christmas Cheer Day with over 90 entries. Gayle Edwards won the women's while Jonesy won the men's but both were overshadowed by Chooks cart (well done Chooks daughters).

Thanks to those few who turned out for the working bee. A lot was achieved and the course renovations went well (well done greens staff).

An update for the course, there will be preferred lies on the Presidents fairways until January 1.

You will also be seeing the yellow marks on the Presidents course indicating the position of the new yellow course. The Captains will follow shortly.

The Australia Day golf event will be a 9am shotgun start followed by a BBQ, so hopefully another big entry.

The syllabus for next season is completed notable changes will be that all board events will return to their original format and a veterans trophy in the Women's Championships.

Don't forget your entries for the Summer Tournament at the end of January.

Have a merry and a safe Christmas see you all on the course next year.

# Club Events with Shanelle Blachford

After a 4 month hiatus, it's great to be back working in the Functions department here at Tocumwal Golf and Bowls Club. Jumping straight into silly season, it's been a very busy couple of months.

December has seen us with many lovely businesses from throughout our region come to celebrate their end of year Christmas parties. From our regulars like the Optimist and Cobram Quilter Groups, Old Farts and Stubbs & Wallace, to some fresh faces such as The Wall Café, Ottrey Homes, Sparkyman, Milcast Concreting and Salter Furniture.

Our regular Club events come to a close for the year, with Barefoot Bowls, Pennant and Twilight Golf returning after the Christmas break. Keep an eye out for updates on when those events will be back.

As for 2023, you can expect to see lots of exciting things around Tocumwal Golf and Bowls Club. Gig on the Green will be back, bigger and better. Save the date for Saturday 11th March and stay tuned for some very exciting updates. I very much look forward to working with you all next year and can't wait to show you what I have in store for this Clubs bright future.

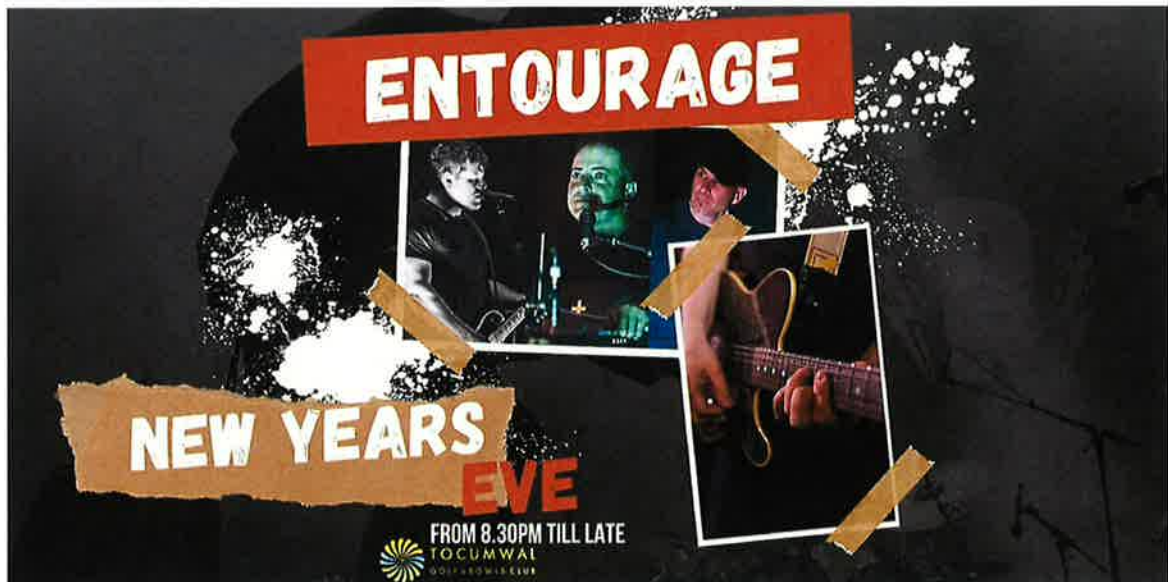
## Christmas Trading

With this Saturday night being Christmas Eve, the Club will be closing a little earlier than normal at 9pm. We will then be closed for the entire day, golf course included, on Christmas Day before re-opening on Boxing Day.

## New Years Eve

Next Saturday night is looking like being a huge night at the Club, with plenty of action right up until closing time of 2am!!!

Headlining the night will be local act, Entourage playing LIVE & FREE from 8.30pm, plus drink and dinner specials. Don't miss out in bringing the new year in the right way!



## Upcoming Events



# **JANUARY** **GIG GUIDE**

**SAT 7**

**STEVE BELL**

**SAT 14**

**PAUL LINES**

**SAT 21**

**JADE CAMDEN**

**SAT 28**

**UNDER THE RADAR**

[www.clubtocumwal.com](http://www.clubtocumwal.com)

03 5874 9111




**TOCUMWAL**  
 GOLF & BOWLS CLUB


**GolfAustralia**

**2023**  
**Summer**  
*tournament*

*28 - 29 January 2023*




**TOCUMWAL**  
 GOLF & BOWLS CLUB

*Victorian*  
**36 Hole 2 Person Ambrose**  
*Championship*

SAT 04 - SUN 05 FEBRUARY 2023


**GolfAustralia**


**GARNAUT**  
 PRIVATE WEALTH




**YAMAHA**  
 Golf Cars

**VETERANS AUTUMN**  
 TOURNAMENT


**TOCUMWAL**  
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**20th - 24th March 2023**