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5th October 2020

Volunteer Club

The one thing that stands out at present is that we are now **a volunteer club**. We will only be as good as our volunteers can be and this will require all members to contribute in some way at some time.

The journey over the next six months will be hectic, informative and a real challenge to maintain & improve the level of standard we are used to having at the Warracknabeal Golf Club.

In my past ten months of being President, I have been very grateful for the active members of our club. Numerous improvements across the Bowls & Golf Club have been impressive thanks to those people. But the big challenge now is, without an employed groundsman, to do the numerous tasks that we asked of our groundsmen in the past.

We will need the right people in the right places and that is the challenge. Seeking members or people with knowledge & skills to help us set our facilities & grounds to the good standard, takes on a major task for the club. Members have responded magnificently to the 'Ears to the Ground' policy with many improvements over the grounds, clubhouse, gardens & machinery happening. This is still in practise which is great.

Our next task is to create and join teams which will take the responsibility of looking after an aspect within the club so that all members may enjoy their golf & bowls. These groups will be under a person who will oversee the task at hand through listening, directing and/or assisting in some manner.

We have fantastic volunteers but as we know, volunteering is no fun if you don't have support. Already action is away with some Hole Caring Teams, Mowing Teams, Gardening Teams, Catering Teams, Bar Teams, Bottle'O Team, etc all of which can use more support. So, if you are willing to join in and have some fun with a team, please contact a Committee member. You may even create a team to cover an aspect you see as important to our club.

Volunteers are volunteers!! So, we do enjoy having volunteers who are regular, reliable and communicate. We must understand there are other aspects in volunteers lives which will interrupt their great work ie grandparent duties, holidays, appointments, etc. so that is why we are aiming at teams to cover the numerous aspects of our club.

Groundsman

Ayden Roberts is guiding us over the next three months re the greens and machinery, coming twice a week to ensure our greens are maintained and improved through the season of spring. Ayden has been teaching volunteers how to use machinery such as mowers & the scarifier. The greens have been scarified and this will occur each fortnight in the growing season hopefully. We greatly appreciate the volunteers on the fairway mowers, greens mowers and rough cutter. Each is learning how, why and where as well as following the program Ayden is setting for them.

Greens: Dennis Murphy, Rohan Laycock

Tees & Surrounds: Danny Germano, David Baxter

Rough: Mick Marchment, David Kranz, Derek Picken, Peter Schilling, Ryan Smith

Fairways: John Barbetti, Terry Sanders, Bernie Naylor

Scarifying: Bernie Naylor, Dennis Murphy, David Baxter

Bunkers: Kevin Newell, Peter Schilling, Mary Massey, Karen Germano

If you wish to assist please contact Wayne George or David Baxter.

Ayden is targeting Sunday-Tuesday 11th-13th October to core & sand the greens. Assistance will be essential in removing the cores, sanding the greens etc.

With COVID-19 restrictions continuing it makes it difficult to coordinate work to be done.

Please contact Fred George or one of the Grounds Committee: Bernie Naylor, Peter Barling, Dennis Murphy, Allan Ross, David Baxter, Fred George.

Golf Course

The course continues to play well as we endeavour to get onto a number of tasks which need attention. Spraying of the fairways and surrounds for clover & broadleaf will take place when conditions suit, machinery works and volunteer availability. We thank you for your patience. October is always a month we see the course not looking its best with the changeover of grasses and the growth of weeds overnight.

Caring for our Course Teams

Thank you to those who have volunteered already for caring of a particular hole. Work could be doing rabbit scratchings/divots, fallen branches, pinecones, rip or irrigation lines top dress, bunkers and minor items which all put some polish on the way the course looks & comes across. If the team has a major idea for the hole, they would need to place it before the Grounds Committee. It will help immensely as we rely more & more on these items being done by volunteers. The weather is on the improve with Spring here & it should be a nice outing for the team.

Social Golf

The course continues to be very busy with members and green fee players who are looking to keep active and busy.

Golf has certainly proven its health value over this unusual period of time. Great to see a number of juniors out too.

Coronavirus

We are still in Stage 3 with usual restrictions but we are permitted to play competition golf. Remember:

NO MASK! NO GOLF!

The clubhouse will remain closed but the bar will operate for take away drinks and occasional food item such as pies/pasties.

It is very important to read the board and adhere to the very simple items such as:

1. Visitors please sign in. Visitors from Melbourne are NOT permitted to play at this stage.
2. Remain 1.5m apart.
3. Use & handle your own equipment.
4. Wash hands in soap and water before & after the round of golf.
5. Groups of four are permitted.
6. Two to a cart is permitted with the cart being cleaned after use.
7. Enjoy your activity by adhering to these suggestions to stay fit & healthy while not putting others at risk.
8. If you feel unwell or display any flu-like symptoms **Stay Home!! Get tested!!**

Thank you

Any queries, please contact me or for up to date information, go to the Golf Australia website or the Federal Government have also created a COVID-19 site.

Women's Recruiting Campaign

A fabulous effort by the women of our club to take the initiative and seek out new members in this time of golf only [nearly] happening. President Wendy has set up a care & share system which encourages ladies new to the sport to come and try. It involves some coaching, info re courtesy and getting out there and playing a few holes. Well done to the rest of the women in supporting Wendy in her efforts to recruit.

Check out our website &/or our face book for details.

Working Bees

Stage 3 restrictions have limited this program but it will resume as soon as we can.

These are held on Sunday [9:00-11:00] after each Monthly Medal; Monday [8:00-10:00] 1st & 3rd week of the month. You may contact Dennis Murphy re Sunday and David Baxter re Monday.

KEEP IN MIND!!

November is not far away and that means it is our –

ANNUAL MEETING

Hopefully by then we are able to gather in some numbers!

Upcoming events:

Grab those fixture books as we take on the usual competition days. Contact your captains if unsure.

Women: Debby Barling 0417 982 235

Men: Dennis Murphy 0439 195 462

I believe the men may play the Laycock Classic 4BBB v Par on Saturday 17th October. This is also the qualifying day for the Posties Matchplay Knockout [pairs] with the top 8 scores going on to challenge for the valued prize.

Both are important board events.

Projects of the future!!

Creating teams to maintain 'holes'/fairways
Machinery upgrade ie spray unit, sander
Painting of the clubhouse and changerooms
Regenerating plant life around the course
Main cool room upgrade.

Normie Keeps Helping!!

Our great little mate & life member, Normie Ross, was known for his efforts around the club and assisting the Groundsman.

Unfortunately, Normie passed on earlier in the year but he is still assisting the club through the guidance of his brother-in-law, Bill from Maldon, and niece, Julie. Julie made contact with the club recently to offer the club some items they believed may be used around the workshed and grounds. So, with our policy of 'Ears to the Ground' & we accept all kind donations, they delivered a ladder, air pressure pump, a lawn mower and a trailer. We appreciate the kind gesture from Normie's family and it sends a message to all.

