



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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## THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE #7 – NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2003

### The President's Message

Hello and welcome to issue #7 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter, the last one for this year. And what a year it has been. We started the year with an enormous task to get the club back to a profitable situation after 4 years of being unprofitable and I am pleased to report that we are well on the way to achieving this goal. For the first time in 4 years we will show a modest trading profit and you the members are responsible. For without the support of all of the many volunteers who gave up their time and effort and in some cases their cash, it would not have been possible. I personally would like to thank everyone involved from the General Committee on down. What a marvellous effort!! You are to be congratulated. The AGM will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of December starting at 8:00pm in the Clubrooms and more of the details of our financial situation will be revealed, I would like to see as many of you there as possible. Most if not all of the existing committee members have re-nominated to continue the effort started by them this year, If there are any other members who would like to nominate you are more than welcome, nomination forms are on the notice board and must be in 14 days prior to the AGM (by 27/11/03).

As this will be my last Pres's message for this year I would like to take the opportunity of wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Please take care on the roads over the festive season and may God bless you all. Once again, congratulations and good golfing over the coming summer season.  
Rod Atkins. - President.

### The Editor

As this will be the last issue of the 'Whacker' for 2003, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people that have provided me with items for the seven editions we have had up to date. My aim when starting the newsletter was to keep it as topical as possible and to include items and articles about the club and its members. I have tried to keep the cost down by limiting the newsletter to one page, which sometimes makes it difficult to get in all the things that members have given me. If I have left someone's article out, please accept my apologies, it wasn't done deliberately. I would be interested to know if you want the 'Whacker' to continue in 2004 and what could be done to improve it. I am always open to suggestions.

### This is the Captain Speaking!

As 2003 draws to a close I would like to thank those people that have worked with Doreen and I to ensure that our golf program was a success. I know that it is difficult to pick out individuals, but the efforts of John Gray must not go unrecognized. He has been a tremendous help to me and I would like to thank him very much. Fields throughout the year have been variable in size, which has surprised me given the excellent course we have. I would urge all members to speak to the members they know that aren't playing and encourage them to come and join in. We are trying to introduce a new system for 2004 regarding member donated trophies. Our aim is to have every competition sponsored by a member or a group of members in an attempt to cut the club's costs. If you haven't been a trophy donor in the past why not speak to me. I am sure you will find the new system easier for you as well as giving you the opportunity to participate more fully in your club. On behalf of Doreen and the Match Committee I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. I look forward to seeing

you all on the course in 2004. Neville Birch.

### Notes from the General Committee

- The Treasurer reported that the club's finances are in much better shape than this time last year. The club made a profit of approximately \$5200.00 in October. He indicated however that we still faced a cash flow problem and urged all members to pay their subs as soon as they come due.
- There was further development on the club's Strategic Plan with the Committee looking at the issue of course utilization. Several interesting ideas were discussed, which will be worked on in the coming months.
- Members are reminded that nominations for the elected positions and places on the General Committee must be in by the 27<sup>th</sup> November. All members are urged to nominate.
- Concern was raised about the number of new members on the '100 Members' list that are not playing. All members need to take responsibility to contact a new member and invite them for a game.
- The Committee agreed to offer all golf clubs outside of Sunraysia reciprocal rights in an attempt to get more players using the course.

The minutes of the meeting will be on the notice board shortly.

### Committee member profile

Doreen Hamence has indicated that she will not be standing for the General Committee in 2004, so now is the opportune time to tell you a bit about one of the club's hardest workers. Doreen has done a great job as Ladies Captain and as a member of the General Committee. She has been a tireless worker around the club, always ready to help out when the need arises. I am sure she will continue to support her golf club into the future.

Doreen has been a member of Red Cliffs Golf Club for 23 years. As well as Ladies Captain she has served on the Social Committee and has been a stalwart in and around the clubhouse. Doreen's talents are not restricted to assisting around the club, she also has quite a lot skill on the course having been the B Grade Champion in the past. I can also attest to her golfing skills as she carried me around in a mixed event recently to run out winners on the day. Her favourite hole is the 11<sup>th</sup>, although she didn't say why. It's probably because she has birdied it more times than you can count. When asked what she likes about Red Cliffs she said: "Its just a good club with great members". I think that sums it up perfectly. Thanks for your work over the years Doreen and we all look forward to seeing you around the place for many years to come.

### Some member feedback required?

One of the key issues discussed at the last General Committee meeting was around ways that we could increase the level of course utilization, particularly on a Sunday. There was general agreement that drawn partners events are not popular with a number of male members, although no reasons were given for this statement. It was also agreed that we might need to introduce some different events, particularly those that can include non-handicap players. The view was that there is no point attracting new members through efforts like the '100New Members' program, if we don't take any steps to include them in the club's golf activities. A suggestion was made that as many members as possible have a look at the names on the '100 New Members' list and invite one or two of those people to join them in a game of golf every now and then, particularly on a Sunday. This process, when combined with a move to make the Sunday program more varied would be successful in lifting the numbers playing on a Sunday. All members are asked to put themselves in the place of a new member who doesn't know very many people at a golf club, and appreciate how hard it would be to break in. This is a particularly difficult thing when most of our club competitions are based on a time sheet system where many groups are arranged a week or more in advance.

If you as a member have any thoughts on the issue of greater course utilization and how to encourage any new members to start playing, please speak to any member of the General Committee. Your input will be most welcome.

### The History of the Red Cliffs Golf Club [continued]

In the October issue of the 'Whacker' we got up to 1936. What happened after that?

- In 1937 the club purchased a gang mower, but the season didn't get underway until early May due to wet conditions.
- In the same year Mr. Don Thompson of Maples was offered the job of professional, and a truck was purchased to allow the scraping of the fairways. Although many working bees were held it was found to be too expensive to grass the fairways. A decision was taken to canvas members for One Pound one Shilling each to enable some of the grassing to continue
- In 1939 the first moves to merge with the West Cliffs Golf Club took place with the appointment of a committee of three to investigate the proposal. This year also saw a number of vacancies on the committee as members joined the armed forces.
- In 1940 the merger with West Cliffs Golf Club took place and the wish was for the Shire to take over the course, but they declined although promising assistance from time to time.
- In 1941 several members of the West Cliffs Golf Club took up positions on the Committee. These included Mr. Young, Mr. J. Duck, Mr. A. Jenkins, Mr. Tonzing and Mr. Considine.
- The AGM of 1941 saw the start of a new era for the club with the long desired union of the two golf clubs.
- In 1941 Sr Tourney was the first nurse to leave the district for overseas duty during the war. It was decided that golf should continue, even though times were difficult members and associates still needed some relaxation and all funds from games went to patriotic purposes only.

### 2003 Annual General Meeting

All members are reminded of the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Red Cliffs Golf Club will be held on

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December starting at 8.00pm**

in the clubhouse. All members are urged to make an effort to attend this very important meeting that will undoubtedly be crucial to the future of the Red Cliffs Golf Club. If you cannot attend please record your apology with a Committee member.

### A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

As this is the last issue of the 'Whacker' for 2003, I would like to wish all members and their families a very happy, enjoyable and safe Christmas and a prosperous 2004. If you are going away for the festive season, please travel safely because we all want to see you back on the course in 2004. I hope you have enjoyed the 'Red Cliffs Whacker' in 2003 and thank you to all those that provide items for inclusion. I look forward to the opportunity to bring it to you again in the new year.

**See you all at the Annual General Meeting**