



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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## THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE # 10 – MARCH 2004

### President's Message

Hello and welcome to issue #10 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter. The start of the 2004 is upon us and financially things are looking quite miserable, there is no doubt that the drop in fees at Coomealla has had a disastrous effect on us not only have we lost members to them but the expected overflow of disgruntled members at Riverside has not happened, and to cap it off there are some members that are playing every week and have not yet paid there subs. Come on folks let's do the right thing!! If you're having difficulties then come and talk to us, we are happy to listen and help if we can, but we need the subscription money urgently.

We have had a very successful weekend to launch the 2004 Season starting on Friday night with "Concert On The Course". Over 350 people attended causing Mick and Patto to send out for more meat to feed the masses, and thanks must go to Weaver's Butchery for being on hand to help out. The night was a tremendous success with \$3900 net profit being attained, a spectacular result. Many thanks must go to all who helped in the organisation and running of the night, and I would like to particularly thank the other members of my band "Grab Ya Cat", who are not members of our club, for donating their services for the night. Much has been learned from the night and we will ensure that the event will happen again next year on a much larger scale. Those of you that did not attend, well you just missed out on a fantastic night.

Saturday's field was around the Fifty mark which was a good result as many were saving themselves for Sunday, The Clubhouse was booked for a wedding on Saturday night by Penny and Graham Marks which was also a great night for those who attended and for the Club, I don't have the final figures at hand as I write, but it was a very successful night. Many thanks also to all who worked on the night to gain valuable dollars for the club.

Sunday was the first of our membership drive events, an Ambrose in two's plus one, a novelty event, which proved a lot of fun. There was well into the Fifties playing and it was good to see a lot of past members in attendance, I'm sure that a number of them will be very tempted to re-join. There will be another of these events next month, so get cracking and work on that neighbour, friend, wife, husband, girlfriend, boyfriend to come out and play and hopefully get them to join up as members.

### President's Message [continued]

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all good golfing over the coming season, and please can we have those membership fees in Urgently. Thank You.

Rod Atkins. - President.

### Around the Greens

Anyone who has been playing our Red Cliffs Golf Course would be very hard to please if they weren't impressed with the way it has been presented for quite some time now. The credit for this obviously, goes to Tom, Neville and that body of stalwarts, "Dad's Army", who continue to make a tremendous contribution to the upkeep and development of our course. It's a credit to all concerned when you consider that with a fraction of the staff other district clubs have, we still have what is arguably the best playing facility in the district.

Members can assist greatly in preserving the quality of our magnificent course by taking a few moments to repair divots and pitch marks while they are playing. Ball marks on a green if repaired immediately recover in a matter of days while if left, take a month or so. Pitching practice balls on to greens can result in significant damage to them, particularly if the pitch marks aren't repaired. All divots should be repaired by replacing any loose turf and then top dressing with sand and smoothing over.

Thank you to members for the patience shown during the recent re-development of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> tees. I'm sure inconvenience will be worth it, especially when they come back into play in the not too distant future.

Andrew Wood Greens Chairman

### Editor's Note

Only one member picked up the fact that the last issue was headed February 2003 and not 2004. While I could say this was done deliberately to find out who is reading the newsletter, it wasn't, it was just a silly mistake. Computers will do that to you!

Since starting this newsletter I have asked several times for members to give me items for publication. To date I haven't had one and I'm beginning to wonder if it is worth continuing to produce a newsletter when everything comes from the same source - ME! What about some support????????????????

**PAY YOUR SUBS - PAY YOUR SUBS -  
PAY YOUR SUBS**

### Items from the General Committee

- The financial position of the club is not good when compared with the same time as last year. The main reason is the number of members that have not paid their annual subscriptions as yet. It is likely that we will lose a number of members to Coomealla as a result of their significantly reduced membership fee.
- House Committee happy with the number of helpers to maintain the bar. The roster seems to be working quite well. Always room for more volunteers.
- The group looking at under utilized assets of the club has met and several ideas were discussed. One looks particularly promising, but more investigation needs to be done before any firm decisions are made.
- A sponsor has been found for the green cups, which will give us a bit more income. The General Committee continues to look at innovative ways of getting more sponsorship for the club.
- There were some concerns raised about the proposed use of any profit from the 'Concert on the Course' activity. The General Committee agreed that the original decision would stand.

### This is the Captain Speaking!

The season opener on the 13<sup>th</sup> March was well supported with approximately 60 in the field. It was pleasing to see a number of visitors play on the day and by all accounts had a great time. The new syllabus for 2004 is out and contains a number of different events in an attempt to generate more players and to provide a bit of variety throughout the year. We would still appreciate more sponsors for our regular events, so if you are not sponsoring an event, but would like to, have a talk to me. Congratulations must go to our Junior Summer Pennant team on their win. Well done to all the team. Our senior team didn't do quite as well, but they had a go and that is the main thing. Please remember to keep up the good work by repairing divots in the fairways and pitch marks on the greens. If you could remember to pick up any broken tees from the tee areas it would be appreciated as they do quite a lot of damage to the mower. Good golfing to you all for the new season.

### Membership

Increasing the number of members still remains the most important issue facing the club. This task cannot be left to the General Committee or to one or two members. It is up to all of us to introduce as many new members to the club as possible. Getting new members is one thing, retaining them is another. All members are asked to make new members feel welcome by including them in playing groups. If you know a new member, give them a call and invite them to play in your group.

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

The last episode some issues ago brought us up to the war years and things were obviously tough at the club during this period. There were a number of occasions when the club was saddened by the loss of past members in action, but the club went on, mainly through the efforts of the Associate members – the ladies! In 1943 nine holes were prepared and the AIF Cup was played. The 1942 and 1943 reports were presented at the same time owing to the fact that the committee hadn't changed due to the wartime conditions. Mrs. Hammet ran a garden party and raised twenty pounds for the POW Fund. It was these types of activities that kept the club together. No club championships were played in 1942 or 1943. In her 1944 President's report Mrs. Wright said: "...thought that victory and the end of the war was in sight and we must have our club flourishing for when the boys return home." What a terrific spirit! During 1945 there were further attempts to buy the land but the Lands Department ruled that it could only be bought at auction and the club was advised to secure an extension on the existing lease. In 1946 the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of the club was held with tea and a dance, which was a most successful event. For the first time in the club's history there was a tie for the A Grade Associate Championship between Mrs. Keogh and Mrs. Dodemaide. In 1947 the club championships were played over 36 holes of stroke play on a Sunday. The following weekend the four best scores played a match play semi-final in the morning with the two winners playing off in the afternoon. It was in 1948 that Mildura and Riverside started golf week and modified grassing was carried out on the red Cliffs fairways. This year also saw the Belar tree on the 6<sup>th</sup> fairway was under threat of removal and after much discussion it was decided to leave it there, a decision no doubt regretted by some golfers ever since. That brings us to the end of the 1940s and the beginning of an era of unprecedented development at the Red Cliffs Golf Club. Keep watching for the next installment.

### Woody's joke of the Month!

After a poor game of golf Geoff Smith was getting into his car when a policeman pulled up and asked him:

"Did you tee off on the sixteenth hole about thirty minutes ago?" "Yes," he responded.

"Did you happen to slice your ball so that it went over the trees and off the course?" "Yes, I did. How did you know?" Geoff asked.

"Well," said the policeman very seriously, "Your ball flew out onto Coorong Ave and crashed through a driver's windshield. The car went out of control, crashing into five other cars and a fire truck. The fire truck couldn't make it to the fire, and the building burned down. So, what are you going to do about it?"

Geoff thought it over carefully and responded... "I think I'll close my stance a little bit, tighten my grip and lower my right thumb."