



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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## THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE # 1 1 – APRIL 2004

### The President's Message

Hello and welcome to issue #11 of the Red Cliffs Golf Club's Members Newsletter. It is amazing how things can turn around in a short time, this time last month I was reporting how things weren't looking too good financially. Well, after all returns are in from the "Concert on the Course", a surge in green fees, some good initiatives by the social committee and some tardy members paying their fees, there has been a significant turn around in our financial situation and my thanks go to all concerned. It pays to stay positive!!!

Which leads me into the proposal by the asset utilization sub-committee, which the General Committee has adopted, and that is the establishment of a "Turf Nursery" on the unused land between the dam and the 18<sup>th</sup> Fairway. There is a more in depth article further on in this newsletter, so I won't bore you with more of the same but to say that this is a golden opportunity to secure the financial future of the club and to open up further avenues for making money for the club which can then be put to uses such as, purchasing more water for future use, new club rooms eventually and employing more staff to relieve the burden now placed on the existing members, plus a host of other things that we need badly. The success of the venture will depend firstly on getting enough members interested in investing in an extremely lucrative scheme and secondly in the ongoing support and management of the project by future members and committee.

The course, as you can all see, is in magnificent condition as is being testified by the number of visiting local golfers from all Sunraysia Clubs. But according to our curator, "It is still not good enough." Good on you Tom, you are doing a great job!! There have been some changes to the 15<sup>th</sup> green; Tom is adding a new dimension with some raised swales. Once grassed over they will make the hole very interesting.

Sunday was the second of our membership drive events, an Ambrose in two's plus one, a novelty event, which was as much fun as the first one. There was only about 40 playing but it was good to see a lot of first timers playing, I know we signed up at least two new members from the day. 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.

The first of our fund-raising raffles is under way, a beautiful set of golf clubs, bag and buggy from Sunraysia Golf Factory, Shane is looking after us on this one, and tickets will go on sale on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> for the charity day. Our plan is to run two or three of these types of raffle each year and replace the major raffle of previous years as we feel that that type of fundraising has run it's race for the moment. Also our second raffle, the Fairway 2000, is under way with Graham Bamford and his wife Brenda in charge of distribution, tickets will be available the first week of May. So please support both of these initiatives to help your Club.

Good golfing to you all! Thank You.

Rod Atkins. - President.

### A Secret Contribution

*[Sub-titled: 'She'll Know who's responsible']*

A puzzled golfer watched a fellow member don some very unorthodox gear in the clubroom.

"How long have you been wearing a corset?" he asked.

"Ever since my wife found it in the car", was the reply.

The following comment was added by the supplier of the joke: "The word corset is a bit dated, but would bra be too risqué?!!

What do you think??? I hope I haven't embarrassed the person too much. Can you guess who the secret contributor is???????????????

### Club Shorts!

- The 'Concert on the Course': Thanks to all those who supported our "Concert on the Course". It was such a fantastic night that it will happen again next year. If you can think of anyway to improve the night please speak to a committee person about it.
- Fisher's tags: Fishers Stores pay one cent in the \$ to the Red Cliffs Golf Club as a community benefit payment if you present your tag when you pay for your groceries. Every little bit helps.
- Chris Healey, Peter Hickey and Col Richardson agreed to convene a 'Fund Raising' Committee. They would love some new ideas from anyone.

### **This is the Captain Speaking!!!**

It is great to see that the weekend fields are improving now that the "real" golf season has begun. It is hoped that we can keep it up. I have put a sheet on the notice board seeking participants in this year's singles knockout. Get your names up on the list and a draw will be made soon. It is planned to allow at least a month for the first round to be played once the draw has been made. I am also looking for starters for the district pennant competition, so if you are interested put your name up on the sheet on the notice board, or speak to me. It would be great to see some members act on the suggestion that was made last weekend about 'adopting a hole'. If we are going to maintain the course in its current excellent condition, we all need to do our bit. We cannot leave it all up to our greens staff and 'Dad's Army'. Why not be the first to volunteer and nominate a hole that you and a mate or two will look after, you may just start a trend!

### **A new initiative for Red Cliffs Golf Club**

At its last meeting on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2004, the General Committee took the first positive step to try and ensure the long-term future of the Red Cliffs Golf Club. Faced with the prospect of an ever worsening financial position the General Committee unanimously agreed to a proposal to establish a turf nursery that has the potential to generate a considerable income stream for the club.

The turf nursery proposal was one of a number of ideas looked at by a sub-committee formed by the General Committee to look at the under utilized assets of the club and to come up with ideas to make these assets work for us. The development of a turf nursery has been under discussion now for several weeks whilst a detailed examination of the proposal was being carried out. At every stage of the investigation process the sub-committee met and discussed the information that had been gathered before moving on to the next stage. Tom Crawford and Rod Atkins who between them have considerable skills and experience in horticulture and small business carried out the majority of the investigation into the turf nursery. With the outcomes of the initial investigations at its disposal the sub-committee recommended that Neil Wilkie be approached to develop a business plan for the turf nursery proposal as the final stage in the developmental process prior to it going to the General Committee for ratification.

Throughout the entire process the main aim has been to ensure the financial viability of the Red Cliffs Golf Club into the future. Without a significant injection of

funds the club would continue to struggle with a distinct possibility that it would cease to exist in the not too distant future. Whilst there are no guarantees that the turf nursery initiative will provide the necessary injection of funds, the General Committee believes that it offers the best possible chance of achieving this outcome. It is important that all members appreciate that the Red Cliffs Golf Club, as an entity, has nothing to lose from the enterprise. The risk will be carried by the 'parcel-holders' who will provide the start up capital for the project. Parcel holders have a real opportunity to profit from this venture with returns on their initial investment of up to 100% predicted under the current market conditions. The contribution from the Red Cliffs Golf Club will be a proportion of Tom Crawford's time, the use of existing course equipment, a relatively small allocation of irrigation water and the currently unused land. Even if the turf nursery fails the club will be left with a new, irrigated practice fairway that will be far superior to the one we currently have.

All members are invited to an information meeting to be held at the clubhouse on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm**, where full details of the proposal will be explained. At the conclusion of the meeting there will be a call for members to become 'parcel-holders' in the turf nursery project at \$1000.00 per parcel. The initial 'parcel-holders' will be paid out once the turf nursery is a profitable concern. It is estimated that the Red Cliffs Golf Club will be the sole owner of the turf nursery within three years of its development. There has been a lot of work done to get the proposal to the stage it is at now. What is needed now is for the members to get behind the project to ensure the long-term viability of the Red Cliffs Golf Club. The General Committee looks forward to seeing you all at the information meeting on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May @ 7.30pm** at the clubhouse.

### **A few social notes.**

- Red Cliffs Golf Club Cabaret to be held at the Red Cliffs Civic Centre **Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup>**. Music by RMAX -Al Rayners Band -They will play a lot from the 60's and 70's as well as some current music. Tickets \$12 , BYO supper and Drinks, Tea coffee supplied. Make up a table for a great night out. See Mick Hogan for details.
- The Trash & Treasure market is coming up in September and we need all members to support it. Start gathering together any items for sale on the day. If you have any ideas for additional stalls, let Graeme Duffy, Tom Crawford or Mick Hogan know. We are looking to beat last year's effort.