



# RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB Inc.

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## THE RED CLIFFS 'WHACKER'

ISSUE # 21 – MARCH 2005

### The President's Message

What a huge month it has been at Red Cliffs Golf Club, with the launching of the season coinciding with the much anticipated opening of the new twelfth green. Well done to Tom and all who assisted with the construction of this latest asset to our course. Work will soon begin on the twelfth tee, which will compliment the new green and complete the refurbishment of that part of our course.

Last Friday saw the very successful 'Concert on The Course' held under ideal conditions on our eighteenth green and its surrounds, producing a profit to the club of around \$6500. This fantastic result was due to the efforts of many people who worked long and hard to ensure the success of the evening. In particular, Michael Hogan, Tom Crawford and Graham Bamford, put in a tremendous amount of work in preparation for the night. Thank you also to the ladies who assisted with the meal, the members who slaved over the hot plates and in the drinks tents and to those who assisted setting up and cleaning up. The amount of positive feedback received and the increased numbers attending on the previous year augur well for the future.

Members can be assured they have a very hard working committee with sub committees up and functioning well. Chris Healey continues to keep a close watch on the club's finances and the House committee under the leadership of Mick Hogan has already catered for an engagement party with other functions in the pipeline. They also played a huge role in 'The Concert on The Course'. The hiring of club facilities has also been formalised with the introduction of a hiring agreement. Lois Briggs, Brian Furey and the volunteers who work behind the bar continue to make an outstanding contribution to club operations.

Justin McPhee and Ron Baird in association with Shirley Case, Jill Eyles, Julliane Wood and Marion Pengelly, have produced this year's syllabus, which is now available. Competitions have been strongly supported and well managed.

Our secretary, Bob Mutton is also to be commended on the outstanding job he is doing with publicity both within the club and the wider community. His article, which appeared on the back page of the Sunraysia Daily, was excellent publicity for Red Cliffs Golf Club. He is currently working on a double page insert, advertising various aspects of our club, which is to soon appear in the 'Red Cliffs Settler'.

With the continued support of our members, we hope to build on the momentum, which has been established to provide the basis for the ongoing successful operation of Red Cliffs Golf Club. There is clearly a positive attitude around the club at present, so let's keep it going. Andrew Wood.

### "Concert On The Course"

Everyone who was involved in any way with the 'Concert on the Course' held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March needs to be congratulated. The event was a great way to showcase our club spirit and our great facilities to Sunraysia. It was a tremendous effort from a lot of people to set up, cook the meal, run the event and clean up at the end. Once again our ladies proved just what a great asset they are to the club with a magnificent effort in preparing and serving a meal for over 400 people in such fine style.

A big thank you to Rod Atkins and his band, 'Grab Ya Cat' for keeping the people entertained with terrific music all night. Its events like these that show a real club spirit and our little mate 'Patto' would have been proud of us all.

Whilst the night was a tremendous effort socially it was also extremely successful from a financial point of view. Ticket sales showed a profit of \$3,700.00, the raffle made \$300.00 and the bar made a total of \$2,500.00, giving a grand total of \$6,500.00 for the night. When we compare that to the \$3,900.00 profit from last year's event, you can see what a big night it was. With a success like this the 'Concert on the Course' is set to become an annual event for the Red Cliffs Golf Club.

It is always difficult to pick out individuals in an effort like this but it is important to recognize the effort of Graeme Bamford. 'Bammy' put in an extraordinary number of hours setting up the power and installing lights around the venue. Then to top it off he took charge of the beer tent and spent most of the night ensuring that the patrons didn't go thirsty. He was seen late in the night flat out on the table with Tom Ryan working on him. Well done Graeme! But Graeme would be the first to recognize that the success was the result of a team effort. A big thank you to all involved no matter how small your involvement may have been.

### Club Shorts

- Whilst this notice may be a bit late for some, if you can spare some time over Easter to man the course to collect green fees and sell some drinks, please see Andrew Wood immediately.
- A reminder to anyone that hasn't paid his or her subs to do so **IMMEDIATELY!!** We need the money.
- We hosted the newly formed 'Sunraysia Golf Club' recently, which resulted in a boost for our green fees. The big hope is that we will get a membership 'spin-off' as a result of our involvement in this initiative.
- The major raffle of the set of golf clubs will be getting underway shortly. Let's all get behind this effort to ensure its success.

ns. Our Opening Day went well with the 2th green being well received by all.

the day were Rod Atkin's and Lisa Coates d to beat that!!).

note for the month so far are:

inners- A Grade Mick Hogan 74 net, B Grade

net; 5/3/05: Stableford- Peter Wright 44 pts;

African Par- Andrew Wood +6

ord- Russell Abraham 46pts

ers that deserve a mention were the 3 teams

for the Victorian Golf Association Family

. They were as follows:

n Tiller, David Lia; Ladies- Bobbie Ramsay,

ixed- Julie McEwen, Ryan McEwen. It was

players flying the flag for the Red Cliffs Golf

at local knowledge!

e enjoys the smorgasbord of golf over the

ood golfing to you all – Justin and Ron.

**A Finances Update**

March 2005 is \$13,404.00, which compares

he same month last year of \$2,570.00. This

l up on last year but we need to keep in mind

insurance bill of \$5,000 to come off that.

r months of 2005 we are \$10,880 better off

with a number of the key indicators doing

at in context we have had a total operating

r months of \$4,144 compared with a loss last

. From October 2004 to February 2005 we

ur debt by almost \$16,000, which is a great

eed to keep it going. At this stage of the year

arget to achieve our budgeted debt reduction

10. On present indications it is likely that we

tive balance of almost \$20,500 by the end of

**es from the General Committee**

in the main club area will be cleaned and a

one has been purchased for the clubhouse.

lay men's competition has been dropped due

upport.

ment of Justice has advised that the changes

e club rules at last year's AGM have been

There are one or two minor adjustments that

made to bring our rules into line with the

is Incorporation Act 1981'.

ord will be commencing work on a number of

next few weeks, which will be financed by

'he Dole' money.

the Pin' board will be erected adjacent to the

ules for 'Directions of Play in Dangerous

ces' will be produced and will be common to

he district.

ditor: **Bob Mutton – 50238633 [b/h]; 50233394 [a/h]; email: robnglen@ncable.com.au**

Association. The report has wide spread ramifications for all golf clubs in Victoria and its recommendations need to be

taken seriously. In this issue we will look at an overview of the 'Victorian Golf Supply & Demand'. The following is the

conclusions reached by the report's authors on this subject and can be found on page 36 of the report.

The review of the level of golf course supply in Victoria reveals the state as having an above average number of golf

courses per head of population when compared to other states in Australia. In many cases however, particularly in

regional areas, the golf courses that currently exist were not developed based on supply and demand fundamentals, as

would be the case today. In many instances they were developed on land gifted by local councils, construction was

often aided by volunteer labour delivering the projects for a fraction of what they would cost today.

Given that many of the regional courses and many of the metropolitan courses, particularly the public courses, were

built for reasons other than significant golf demand, it should not come as a surprise that many of these clubs now face

21<sup>st</sup> century issues that challenge their very existence, with the main challenge being membership.

The review of golf demand patterns in Victoria shows the sport maintaining a reasonably consistent level of

participation across the total population averaging over 9% for the past two years, with the highest participatory rates of

both genders in Australia. A decline in golf club numbers in regional areas has been offset by an increase in

metropolitan golf club numbers due mainly to the development of the new 'share based membership' clubs.

Total participation numbers have been growing steadily since the late 1990's though at a social level as more people

are choosing to participate in the game in a non-club environment. Our review estimates participation growth in

the social category to be approximately 21% from 1998 to 2003, largely sourced from male golfers, though recent total

growth has been minimal. This trend identifies that golf, as a game, is still an attractive sport and that the 'golfer' still

exists in significant numbers in the community. This should be viewed as a positive for the Victorian golf club industry

with the future challenge clearly being the conversion of these participants to the club environment.

**Editor's Note:** This is a trend that the Red Cliffs Golf Club identified some time ago and has taken some steps to

address with the introduction of several new classes of membership. It is also clear that the recent revival of the

'Sunraysia Golf Club', a social golf group with no club allegiance, is also picking up on this trend. The question we

need to ask ourselves as a club is what are we going to do to ensure that a good percentage of these 'social' golfers enjoy

their game on our course. In the future they may well be the group of players that keeps the club going so that us

completion golfers can continue to enjoy our facilities. I will continue this series in the next issue of the 'Whacker'.